

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراي.

Arafat receives Moroccan message

GAZA STRIP (AP) — A top Moroccan official visited the autonomous Gaza Strip on Tuesday for a meeting with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, Israeli and Palestinian officials said. Jerusalem was a main topic on the agenda of Ahmad Ben Sodeh, an emissary from King Hassan II who was the highest ranking Arab visitor to Gaza since it achieved self-rule from Israel on May 18. He met Mr. Arafat for 45 minutes in Gaza City and told reporters afterward he delivered a letter from Mr. Hassan regarding the Israel-Jordan peace process. He also gave Mr. Arafat an invitation to a regional economic conference to be held in Morocco in October. Mr. Arafat said he has invited Mr. Hassan to Jerusalem and reiterated his rejection of Israel's right to invite Arab leaders there. "The one who has the right to invite people to Jerusalem is... myself, in the name of the Palestinian people," Mr. Arafat said. "I am giving an open invitation to His Majesty (Hassan) and his brothers to visit Palestine and Jerusalem."

Menem supports Jordan's moves

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday received a telephone call from President Carlos Menem of Argentina congratulating him on Jordan's historic steps to achieve a just, comprehensive and durable peace in the region. President Menem said he was proud of his Arab ancestry and expressed his country's readiness to support Jordan's march and to work to enhance bilateral relations. The Argentine president extended an invitation to the King to visit Argentina. The King thanked Mr. Menem and invited him to visit Jordan.

Cabinet approves World Bank aid

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet on Tuesday endorsed a \$196 million grant by the World Bank to finance activities aimed at supporting the banking sector in Jordan and enhancing the financial and banking capacities of the Central Bank of Jordan in addition to developing new methods for granting loans with a view to enhancing competition among commercial banks. The Cabinet also approved a Sept. 14-17 visit by Labour Minister Khalid Al Ghazawi to Egypt to discuss labour issues with his Egyptian counterpart. The cabinet approved the appointment of Jordan's Ambassador to Egypt Nayef Al Qadi as a non-resident ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Kenya. It also designated Jordan's Ambassador to Russia Khalidoun Al Taher to sign the protocol, establishing political relations between Jordan and Latvia Republic, and appointed him as non-resident ambassador there.

Jericho mayor quits

JERUSALEM (AP) — Jericho's mayor said Tuesday that he has submitted his resignation to Yasser Arafat because the Palestinian self-rule government was interfering with his running of the town. "I have asked President Arafat to excuse me from my position because I cannot work under such circumstances," Jamil Sabri Khalaf told Israel Radio. "I am being treated unfairly." Mr. Khalaf, who was appointed by Israel 17 years ago, cited interference from officials in Mr. Arafat's government. But he gave no details. Palestinian officials confirmed receiving a resignation letter in which Mr. Khalaf complained about the treatment of municipal officials in Jericho. They said Mr. Arafat has not decided whether to accept the resignation. Palestinian Municipal Affairs Minister Saeb Erakat said he was not aware of Mr. Khalaf's claims. "He never complained to me," Dr. Erakat said.

Ghali backs Lebanese request

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali came out Tuesday in support of a Lebanese request for an urgent U.N. Security Council meeting on last week's Israeli airstrikes in southern Lebanon. Dr. Ghali hopes that the Security Council consider the Lebanese request seriously, his spokesman Ahmad Fawzi said. In consultations Monday, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Madeleine Albright said that a formal Security Council meeting on the Israeli attack was a bad idea. The attack destroyed a three-story house, killing eight civilians and wounding 18 others, most of them serious.

Dutch plan office in self-rule zone

THE HAGUE (AFP) — The Netherlands is to be officially represented in the newly autonomous Palestinian territories, probably in Jericho, a foreign ministry spokesman said here Tuesday.

Survey teams to help demarcate 1928 borders

Negotiators launch talks on borders, water at Israeli hotel

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

ISRAELI AND Jordan on Tuesday agreed to dispatch joint survey teams to demarcate their border according to a 1928 League of Nations map.

The decision was announced by 50-member negotiating teams after talks at a resort hotel on the Israeli side of the Dead Sea.

The talks on delineating the border, sharing water, airspace rights, security and tourism resumed a day after the two sides inaugurated their first border crossing.

They are aimed at reaching a formal peace treaty following the declaration ending a 46-year state of war July 25 in Washington by His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

It was not immediately clear how the decision to use the map by the League of Nations, the precursor of the United Nations, will affect Jordan's claim to more than 380 square kilometers of land now held by Israel.

While two 50-member teams met here, other teams met at a desert clearing to the south to continue negotiations on demarcating the Israel-Jordan frontier.

The talks are aimed at implementing the Washington Declaration.

Tel Aviv University Professor Asher Sussner, an expert on Jordan, said that going back to the 1928 map was "the only way" to mark the frontier.

He noted that the northern borders of Palestine had been clearly delineated because Britain had a mandate to govern there, while the rival

French controlled Syria and Lebanon.

But since the British held mandates both for Palestine and Transjordan to the east, "it wasn't of particular importance to the British to determine exactly where the dividing line was," Prof. Sussner said.

The League of Nations map provides "not a survey line but a description — the lowest point in Araba."

He said the teams would be the first to actually survey the dried ancient riverbed running from the Dead Sea south to the Red Sea.

Israel's spokesman at the talks, Yossi Gal, told a news conference that "the borders committee worked on the production of joint maps today, and agreement has been reached."

But neither he nor the Jordanian spokesman, Marwan Mousasher, would make the draft maps available to the press or comment on how they would affect the Jordanian land claim.

Both said this would constitute "negotiating with the press."

It was not clear when the surveying work would begin. Dr. Mousasher said the teams also agreed Tuesday that both sides have "rights to an equitable allocation" of water from the Yarmouk and Jordan rivers, but did not decide on the levels.

Asked about Syrian and Palestinian concerns over their share of water from both rivers, Dr. Mousasher noted that the topic was being discussed as part of the wider U.S.-backed peace process.

"Here we are only dealing with bilateral divisions of the water," he said.

In the biggest development stemming from the Jordan-Israel agreement to date, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Mr. Rabin snipped a ribbon Monday inaugurating the first land crossing, about four kilometers north of the Red Sea ports of Aqaba and Eilat.

Chief Israeli negotiator Elyakim Rubinstein announced Tuesday he expects a second border crossing to be set up soon with Jordan.

"We hope to open the second border crossing in the north ... after its exact location is worked out by agreement," he said.

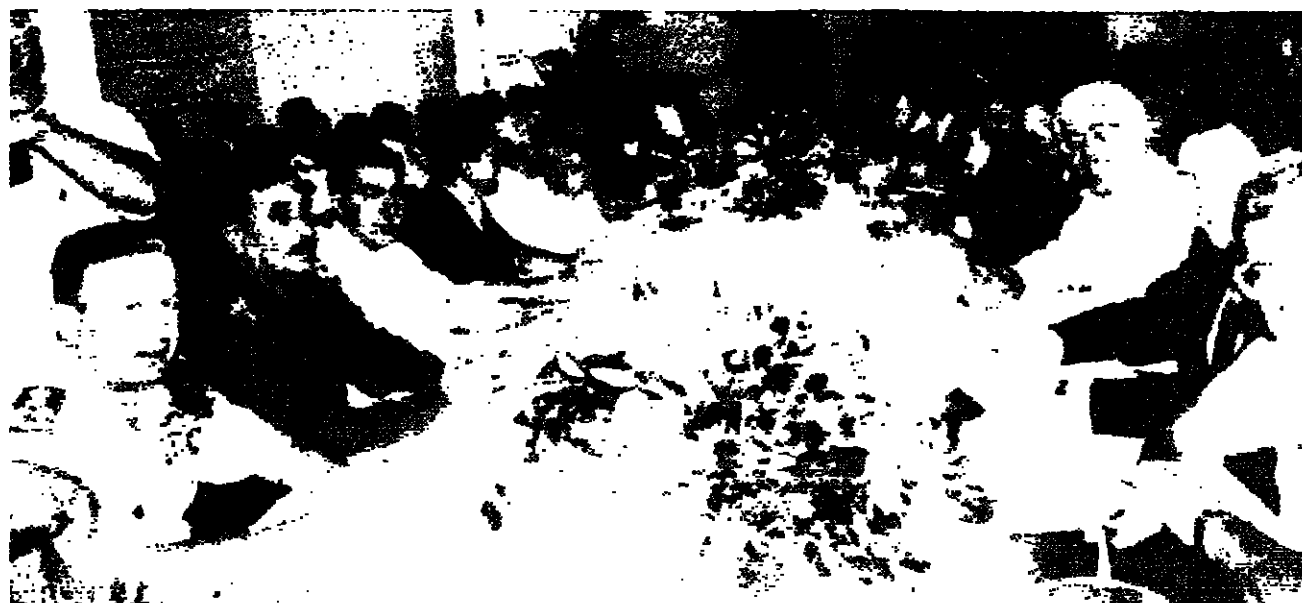
Peace negotiators, led by Jordan's Fayez Al Tarawneh and Israel's Elyakim Rubinstein, exchanged warm handshakes and smiles when they met at the Moriah Plaza Dead Sea Hotel.

They will be discussing issues including security, water, energy and the environment, civil aviation, trade and tourism.

"Never in the previous days or decades have friction and reality come so close together," Dr. Tarawneh said in an opening speech. "The feelings that have paralleled them over the past two years have been both unique and exciting."

"We hope a great deal to the wisdom and courage of His Majesty King Hussein and we feel in debt to the positive and immediate response of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Both have made possible the emergence and friction in and reality in recent days. Thanks are due to them as well as the president of the U.S., Bill Clinton."

(Continued on page 7)



Jordanian and Israeli negotiators at the opening session of Tuesday's meeting at the Moriah Plaza Dead Sea Hotel in Israel (photo by Yousef Al Allan)

'Confidence measures' aside, Israel showing little shift in negotiating tactic

From Narmeen Murad near the southern tip of the Dead Sea on the Israeli side

OUTSIDE THE DEAD Sea resort, an old raft stands as a landmark of the problems that yet have to be resolved before Israeli-Jordanian relations can become completely normalised.

"Jordan Israel Express," says a large sign straddling the obviously old raft that in times of peace would have been moving back and forth between the Jordanian and Israeli shores of the Dead Sea separating them.

But there is no "express" way between the newly-reconciled states.

On the way to this touristic area where Israeli and Jordanian negotiators meet for the first time on Israeli territory on Tuesday, the narrow

winding road had obviously been deserted for the length of the 49 odd years conflict between Arabs and Israel.

The Israeli bus, shuttling Jordanian journalists into Israel "for the first time," drove on a newly washed winding road that had been accumulating sand since 1967.

Yet while the sand was quickly removed to create road access between Jordan and Israel and across the Dead Sea, the problems that have lingered unresolved since the 1967 war are still far from being resolved.

The only new element that had accompanied the series of "for the first time" events since Jordan allowed its

bilateral talks to move to the Middle East region mid-July, is the serious commitment of both sides not only to "conduct serious negotiations" but also to be serious about reaching agreement over the outstanding problems.

But Jordanian negotiating sources told the Jordan Times that while they feel the shift in attitude towards resolving core issues of conflict between the two states, they still feel that Israel has not changed the substance of its negotiations strategy despite the sense of "confidence-building measures" by the Kingdom meant to accommodate Israel's decision-makers on their demands for a friendlier atmosphere between negotiators.

"There is a momentum in the bilateral negotiations if only because we certainly feel

that we have to reach agreement and not just settle down with ceremonies," a senior Jordanian negotiator told the Jordan Times.

Not only do Jordanian negotiators feel pressured by the need to maintain the sense of momentum that has accompanied the quick development in its relations with Israel in the past three weeks, but they also feel that improved relations with Washington and promises made to the U.S. administration to reach agreement and sign a peace treaty with Israel cannot be forgotten.

"This is not only an effort to reach peace with Israel," a Jordanian negotiator told the Jordan Times. "This is also an effort to maintain the level of improved relations with

(Continued on page 7)

Tourists trickle through 'Araba'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The flow of tourist traffic between Jordan and Israel is starting to trickle through the "Araba Crossing," which was opened on Monday, reports from both sides said.

A Jordanian official said 58 tourists of European and American nationalities came in through the crossing on Tuesday while 60 of similar nationalities went out.

The crossing, which was opened by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Monday, is limited to third country nationals. No Israeli or Jordanian passport holders or Israeli- or Jordanian-licensed vehicles will be allowed through.

However, the arrangement leaves open the possibility of Israelis who hold dual passports could use the crossing to come in on their non-Israeli passports.

But reports from the Israeli side said Tuesday Israelis that wanted to cross on non-Israeli passports were turned away because they had not applied for visas beforehand. Officials said Israelis who wanted crossing regardless of whether they held non-Israeli passports.

The crossing is expected to boost tourism on both sides, officials say. Tourists are allowed entry to both sides on condition they spend a minimum of three days on whichever side they are crossing to.

However, infrastructure in Aqaba would have to be expanded to cope with an expected influx of tourists this season. Aqaba has less than 2,000 hotel rooms compared with Eilat's 20,000.

The opening of the Araba Crossing, about four

kilometres north of Aqaba and Eilat, was part of "confidence-building" measures stipulated in the Washington Declaration signed by His Majesty King Hussein and Mr. Rabin on July 25.

The declaration also calls for another crossing further north. Chief Israeli negotiator Elyakim Rubinstein said at the beginning of a new round of negotiations on territories and water rights on Tuesday that the second crossing would be opened after agreement was reached on its precise location (see separate story).

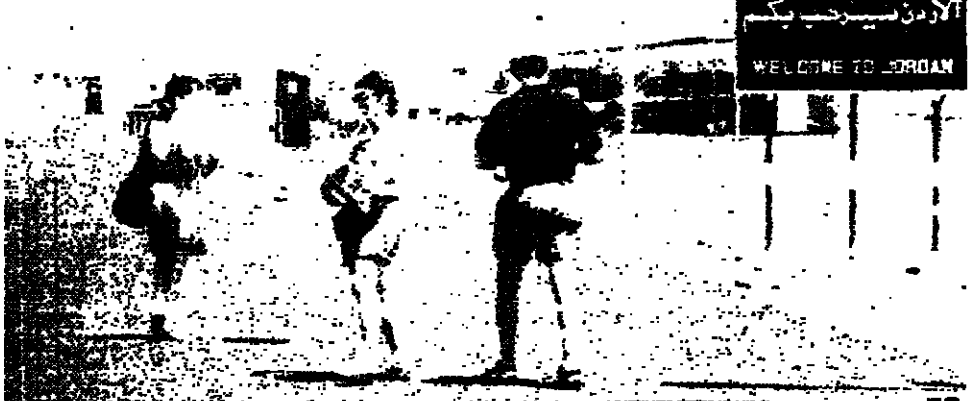
Both crossings will have no bearing upon the outcome of the negotiations, officials have said. "Jordan agreed to the location of the Araba Crossing only after receiving a very clear Israeli undertaking that the site does not represent in any way a border," said an official.

Yitzhak Hai, in charge of the Israeli terminal, said cooperation between the Israeli and Jordanian border officials was "excellent."

To ease arrangements for tourists, visas could be obtained at the crossing itself — free for tourists entering Israel but JD22 for those visiting Jordan.

On Monday, a group of 29 Israelis travelling on dual passports arrived in Amman across the King Hussein Bridge. The Agence France Press interviewed some of them at their hotel and quoted them as saying the only problem they met as they crossed came from Israeli border guards.

"We received a very warm welcome from the Jordanian authorities on the border, but the only problem was the Israelis," Albert Catarivas of the Galilee Tours Travel Agency was quoted as saying.



Tourists pass through the "Araba Crossing" to Jordan (AFP photo)

Hizbollah: U.S.: Syria, Israel attacks will not be stopped

BEIRUT (AP) — The Hizbollah group has vowed to step up attacks on a border strip Israel occupied in South Lebanon, dismissing an Israeli claim that Syria has promised to rein in guerrillas.

A statement by Hizbollah, or Party of God, described as "mere allegation" a comment by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres that violence in South Lebanon was over. Mr. Peres gave Syria credit for curbing Hizbollah guerrillas.

"We are highly confident of the Syrian position and that of President Hafez Al Assad particularly on the nature of the struggle with Israel," said Hizbollah's statement.

"The Syrians have said repeatedly that resistance (against Israeli occupation) is a natural right of our people, who will continue to exercise it as long as our land is occupied."

U.S.: Syria, Israel weighing price of compromise deal

SHANNON AIRPORT, Ireland (Agencies) — Israel and Syria are engaged in serious negotiations, probing each other's positions to see if peace is worth the price of compromise, U.S. officials said on Tuesday.

They spoke as U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher headed back for Washington after his fourth Middle East peace shuttle in three months on an upbeat note but without a breakthrough on the Syria-Israel peace drive.

One senior official said that during a five-hour meeting on Sunday with Mr. Christopher, Syrian President Hafez Al Assad reaffirmed his interest in reaching a peace agreement with Israel by the end of this year.

"Each side has made a strategic commitment to peace but it's not peace at any price," the official told reporters on Mr. Christopher's plane. "Each side would say peace at any price

is one that would break down, that won't endure and that's not a real peace."

Mr. Christopher and other officials refused to cite specific evidence of progress in the U.S.-brokered negotiations between Israel and Syria that are viewed as pivotal to a comprehensive Middle East peace.

But they described a process of serious bargaining that they said would well produce results over time.

Mr. Christopher and his top Middle East adviser are going on holiday soon, but plan to visit the region again in September and possibly monthly thereafter until an agreement is achieved.

Mr. Christopher told reporters that his trip to the Middle East in July had removed some of the major psychological barriers between Israel and Syria and the result was that on the just-completed mission

(Continued on page 7)

PLO, Israel agree on tourism issue, defer budget talks

CAIRO (Agencies) — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on Tuesday agreed on the transfer of authority over tourism to Palestinians in the West Bank but postponed talks on finance until next week.

Their decision came as the World Bank said it would help finance the Palestinians' budget deficit and speed up delayed assistance to Gaza and Jericho (see page 12).

The two sides here agreed that Israel would keep control over archaeological sites, while the new Palestinian National Authority (PNA) will take charge of tourism services.

The tourism issue was finalised in the fifth session of talks here on the extension of Palestinian self-rule throughout the West Bank.

Negotiators have now hammered out the transfer of powers to four of five designated sectors — education, health and social affairs as well as tourism.

But the fifth sector, a system of income tax, is causing problems. "Income tax is not an easy issue," said General Danny Rotschild, Israeli delegation head.

"When we have finished it, we will talk about enforcement and a general paper."

The two sides have agreed to draw up an overall document outlining the new Palestinian powers, which will be sent to international donors who have pledged to make up the shortfall in the Palestinian budget until the tax system is up and running.

According to Gen. Rotschild, the shortfall will be between \$22 and \$30 million over the first six months.

Top PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath said the Israelis had also pledged to hand over control of crossing points be-

tween the autonomous areas and neighbouring countries to Palestinians next Thursday.

He said Israel had delayed the handover — which should have taken place shortly after the May 4 self-rule accord — by giving "excuses" about preparation.

The Palestinians have complained about their treatment at crossing points, especially at Erez between the Gaza Strip and Israel where Arab workers clashed with Israeli troops last month.

Dr. Shaath said negotiators would also discuss next week delayed elections to a Palestinian autonomy council which will govern the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

He said Israelis were to blame because they refused to discuss the redeployment of troops necessary before the polls can start.

The talks were broken off here Tuesday because of a meeting on Wednesday between PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Mr. Rabin will brief Mr. Arafat on the talks he held with King Hussein on Monday and discuss the financial crisis facing the Palestinians in the autonomous areas, officials at the prime minister's office said.

In one positive gesture, Israel on Monday allowed Mr. Arafat and 15 of his "ministers" the right of free passage.

Mr. Arafat also pressed for elections during a meeting Saturday with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Dr. Shaath said.

He quoted Mr. Arafat as telling the two leaders: "I need a mandate from my people... and that mandate can only come through elections."

Paris Club favourable to Jordan relief, but no uniform approach

By P.V. Vivekanand

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — European and Japanese diplomats said Tuesday they expected their governments to respond positively to an American recommendation for debt relief for Jordan, but indicated that there might not be a uniform approach to the issue.

"In essence, it is accepted that Jordan deserves assistance, given the bold and fast moves it undertook in such a short period towards making peace with Israel," said a senior European diplomat. "But most European governments are of the opinion that it should be left to the individual government to decide on what form this assistance should take; whether in write-off or any form of debt relief."

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said in a press conference at Amman after a landmark summit between His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin that President Bill Clinton had written to members of the Paris Club of creditor governments to take action to relieve Jordan's debt burden.

"Urgent international action to relieve Jordan's considerable debt burden is a critical element" in the Middle East peace process, said the presidential letter. "It is essential that the people of Jordan feel the benefits of peace in tangible ways."

Mr. Clinton urged the Paris Club members who hold Jordan's debts — Switzerland, Germany, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Austria, Japan and Britain — to "act as rapidly and as generously as possible to relieve Jordan's financial burden through bilateral debt forgiveness."

Switzerland, Germany and Britain have already extended partial write off of varying degrees to Jordan by converting loans to grants, and President Clinton expressed appreciation of their moves and encouraged them to take "further measures," the Agency France Press (AFP) reported.

The president also noted in his letter that Washington was in the process of writing off the bulk of Jordan's debts to the U.S., starting with \$220 million this year. The net impact of the American gesture on the Jordanian debt is expected to be \$755 million, information minister Jawad Al Anani said this week.

Jordan's total foreign debt stood at \$6.68 billion at the end of 1993. The Kingdom's major debtors are the U.S., France, Japan, Germany and Britain — all members of the Paris Club, which, as a body, holds \$4.01 billion of Jordan's debts. Of the Paris Club debts, \$1.24 billion have been rescheduled and an agreement was reached in June to reschedule another

\$1.21 billion.

Another European diplomat said: "One of the problems that many governments have to take into consideration while studying debt write-off is that there are other debtors who might demand the same treatment as given to Jordan."

But, said the diplomat, "most governments are likely to look for alternative methods and formulas which would effectively lead to relief for Jordan but not labelled as write-off."

A French diplomat, whose country chairs the steering committee of the Paris Club, said: "Our government has been very supportive of Jordan, and played a key role in ensuring that Jordan got one of the most favourable treatments in the Paris Club negotiations."

According to the diplomat, the terms of rescheduling the Kingdom secured from the Paris Club "are of a nature that was rarely given to any other debtor countries."

"The terms include a deferment of over 20 years and partial debt conversion," said the diplomat without elaboration.

In any event, said the diplomat, "the government will be studying the issue of debt write-off for Jordan. It is too early to say what the outcome will be."

Jordanian officials say they appreciate the Paris Club gesture and the French role, but at the same time point out

that debt rescheduling does not actually offer relief since it only puts off the actual payment.

The World Bank has said that Jordan has to cut its debts by half to gain the creditworthiness it enjoyed before the economic crisis of 1989-89.

Japanese Charge d'Affaires Hajime Tanaka, whose country holds about \$1.5 billion of the Kingdom's debts, said his government looked favourably at offering assistance to Jordan, but noted that as a policy the Tokyo government does not accept debt write-offs.

"We have not yet reached a point to discuss this issue," Mr. Tanaka told the Jordan Times. "However, we stand ready to offer concessional loans at very favourable terms to Jordan," he said.

Mr. Tanaka noted that only this week Japan signed an agreement under which it would extend \$131 million to help the Kingdom's energy sector and balance of payments.

In his comments on Monday, Mr. Christopher also referred to possible American help to Jordan's security forces.

"We have other legislation which is pending in Congress with respect to excess defence articles, which is a reflection of the environment here in the Middle East," he said.

Kurdish MPs want Talabani to testify

ANKARA (AFP) —

Lawyers for six Kurdish politicians charged with promoting "separatism" have asked a court here to summon testimony from Iraqi Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani to determine if the accused have links to the outlawed Kurdish Labour Party (PKK).

The six defendants, five former members of parliament (MPs) and a current deputy, could face the death penalty if convicted on charges of campaigning for a separate Kurdish state in southeastern Turkey and of forming a political branch of the PKK in the Turkish parliament.

The rebel PKK and government forces are locked in a decade-old struggle in the southeast which has taken the lives of 11,000 people.

The accused, Ahmet Turk, Hatip Dicle, Orhan Dogan, Sirri Salik, Leyla Zana and Mahmut Alinak, have vigorously denied any links to the PKK and have dismissed the trial as "politically" motivated.

A first round of hearings ended Monday, with proceedings expected to resume Sept. 7.

Former MPs Turk, Dicle, Dogan, Salik and Zana were members of the pro-Kurd Democracy Party, which the government dissolved in mid-June. The five have been expelled from parliament and stripped of their immunity.

A sixth defendant, Mr. Alinak, is an independent and remains a deputy. Defence lawyers have sought testimony from Jalal

Talabani, head of the Iraq-based Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, to "determine if, yes or no, these deputies are responsible to the PKK."

Mr. Talabani attended several discussions, notably in March 1993, that some of the MPs held with PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan.

The court agreed to consider the lawyers' request and will announce its ruling in the new trial session.

Intra-Kurd clashes

Forty-three people died in weekend clashes between rival Kurd factions, which erupted in this northern Iraqi town, hospital officials said Monday.

Sixty-three others were wounded in fighting which flared Saturday between the PUK and the pro-Iranian Kurdistan Islamic League (KIL).

Rocket explosions could be heard regularly on Monday in the southern outskirts of Qalaa Diza, some 20 kilometres from the Iraq-Iran border.

The fighting is the worst since the PUK and the Democratic Party of Kurdistan (DPK) announced in Paris on July 23 an agreement to stop fighting over power-sharing.

Officials from the two sides said 31 people from two families were killed in a single rocket explosion in a house in Qalaa Diza.

Half of the town's 250,000 inhabitants have now fled to the neighbouring town of Raniya.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mubarak, Musa to visit Gaza Strip

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has accepted an invitation by Yasser Arafat to visit the new autonomous Gaza Strip, top Palestinian negotiator Nabil Shaath said. Mr. Mubarak will become the first Arab leader to visit Gaza since self-rule was launched there on May 4. The date of the trip has not yet been set, Dr. Shaath said. Dr. Shaath said Egypt's Foreign Minister Amr Musa will visit Gaza "in two weeks," ahead of the presidential trip. Dr. Shaath, who is also the Palestinian authority's "minister" of planning and cooperation, told reporters that Mr. Arafat invited Mr. Mubarak last Saturday, when the two met in Egypt's coastal city of Alexandria.

Kuwait buys arms from Russia

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia agreed Monday to sell an undisclosed number of armoured personnel carriers and rocket launchers to Kuwait, according to an Itar-Tass news agency report. Valery Pogribenko, a spokesman for Rospromkhiyuz, the Russian state arms trading company, confirmed the deal in which Russia will ship its Smerch rocket launchers and BMP-3 armoured carriers to Kuwait. Kuwait is the first foreign country to buy the Smerch system, which was introduced in the Soviet army in 1987. The contract is one of the largest export deals signed by Russia this year, and exceeds a recent \$600 million to sell Mig-29 fighter jets to Malaysia, Interfax news agency said, citing unidentified sources. The date of delivery and the total cost of the contract were not released.

Saudis may respond to media campaign

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia is considering a response to what it said was a media campaign by foreign and Arab organisations against the kingdom, the Saudi Press Agency said on Monday. It said the council of ministers in the weekly meeting "focused on rules pertaining to the information system for the purpose of countering media campaigns against the kingdom that are still continuing despite repeated denials." It said Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz would submit the ministers' views to King Fahd for any final action. The agency did not mention any specific report or organisation.

Police general surrenders in Saudi gem case

BANGKOK (AFP) — A Thai police general still on active duty Tuesday surrendered for questioning about the disappearance of part of \$20 million in jewelry stolen from a Saudi prince five years ago. General Sanong Wattanawangkarn, a police department legal adviser, went to police headquarters at mid-morning and reported to Lieutenant General Charn Rattanaatham, the officer heading the investigation. Another general, former national police chief Sawasdi Amornvivat, is also wanted for questioning in the Saudi gems case. Gen. Sawasdi, who is a member of the Thai Senate and has immunity while parliament is in session, has been given until the end of this month to report.

British cameraman deported from Cyprus

NICOSIA (R) — A British freelance cameraman was deported from Cyprus on Tuesday after the authorities of this divided island labelled him a security risk. "He is on the plane taking off for Amsterdam... that's all we can say," an immigration office at Larnaca international airport told Reuters on the phone. Peter Williams, 33, an ex-British soldier and father of four children from his marriage to a Greek Cypriot woman whom he is now separated, was refused entry to the island when he arrived at Larnaca airport from San Francisco via Amsterdam. Mr. Williams strongly protested the accusation he had been spying for the breakaway state in Turkish north Cyprus, recognised only by Turkey.

Buildozers work on old U.S. embassy building

BEIRUT (AP) — Bulldozers have begun clearing away the ruins of the former U.S. embassy, blasted 11 years ago by a suicide truck bombing that killed 63 people and ushered in the start of terrorist attacks against Americans in Lebanon. The embassy, which had been renting the seven-story building until the April 1983 explosion, is now operation from a compound in the northeast Beirut suburb of Aukar. Authorities in the past week removed squatters from what remained of the U-shaped building in Beirut's seafont 'Ain Mreisseh neighbourhood. Later, owners brought in contractors to clear rubble and make way for a new building as the city experience a construction boom after the end of the 1975-90 civil war.

Egypt's population seen at 64m in 2000

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's population of 59 million will rise to 64 million in the next six years, the central agency for public mobilisation and statistics said on Tuesday. On average Egyptian women have four children, it said.

Iraqi diplomat recalled after complaint

MANILA (AP) — An Iraqi diplomat has been reassigned to Jordan after a Filipino sales clear accused him of sexual harassment, Filipino diplomatic sources said Tuesday. The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Consul General Salah Sulaiman left the country Monday after a 20-year-old female clerk accused him of touching her breast and thigh at a clothing store last month. Efforts to contact the Iraqi embassy for confirmation were unsuccessful. The embassy had closed for the day. Mr. Sulaiman and Iraqi Ambassador Neama Hussein denied any impropriety. But Filipino sources said the Iraqi decided to reassign the diplomat to avoid embarrassment. He had been scheduled to leave the country next month after a three-year assignment.

U.S. may appoint first Jewish envoy to Israel

The Jerusalem Post

MARTIN Indyk, the White House's top specialist on Middle East affairs, is to be President Bill Clinton's choice to serve as the next U.S. ambassador for Israel, U.S. and Israeli officials say.

Should Indyk be appointed, he would be first Jew to serve in the post. Israel was informed of the U.S. intention to make the appointment on Saturday night, during Secretary of State Warren Christopher's meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, U.S. officials say.

Christopher, however, refused to confirm Indyk's appointment publicly. Speaking to reporters after meeting with Foreign Minister Shi-

mon Peres yesterday in Jerusalem, Christopher said, "Martin Indyk has been one of the most respected members of our peace team. He is very highly regarded in the United States by the president and by me."

He added, however, the naming of a new envoy is Clinton's decision to make.

In addition to his service on the peace team, Indyk is the author of the "dual containment" strategy, calling for a firm U.S. policy in dealing with Iran as well Iraq.

Before joining the Clinton administration, the Australian-born Indyk founded the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, building it into an influential research body advising American policy makers.

Libya wants Lockerbie kin to agree to Hague trial

UNITED NATIONS (R) —

Libya's new U.N. envoy Monday reminded families of the American victims of the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Scotland that his country offered to try two Libyan suspects in the bombing under Scottish law at the World Court, the Hague.

"If the victims' families hear about the proposal, we think they will agree," Ambassador Mohammad Azwai told Reuters in an interview he initiated.

The United States wants the suspects tried in America or Britain, but Mr. Azwai says they would be "brainwashed" before trial in either country.

The Libyan envoy said three-quarters of the U.N. membership, including many Security Council members,

backed Libya's proposal, which was also supported by the Arab League.

A total of 270 people were killed in the bombing of a London to New York flight over Lockerbie, Scotland, including 11 on the ground. The victims were nationals of 21 countries but the overwhelming majority — 189 — were from the United States.

Mr. Azwai, who took up his U.N. post two months ago, said the families of the British victims were willing for the trial to take place before a Scottish court, sitting at the Hague.

But the United States and Britain, where the suspects have been indicted, were insisting on a trial in one or other of those countries to maintain pressure on Libya, in hopes of topping its lead-

er, Muammar Qadhafi, he said.

Mr. Azwai said Libya could not agree to a trial in a country where the accused would be interrogated by "Scotland Yard, the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) or the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation)," which he said would brainwash them or force them to plead guilty.

He also denied reports that Libya had offered each of the victims' families \$3 million, saying there may have been some confusion with compensation being sought in a damages case against his country.

The Security Council, after a periodic 120-day review, made no change last Friday in sanctions it imposed on Libya

in 1992 for failing to hand over the two Lockerbie suspects for trial in either of the countries where they were indicted. The sanctions include an air and arms embargo and the downgrading of diplomatic links with Libya.

Because of Libya's continued failure to comply, further sanctions were imposed in December 1993, including a freeze on some Libyan assets abroad and a ban on its import of certain equipment used in oil transport terminals and in refineries.

Another condition for the lifting of sanctions is Libyan cooperation with a French magistrate investigating the mid-flight bombing of France's UTA Flight 772 over Niger in 1989 in which 171 people died.

Invisible warriors: Iran's students, Syria's trump card

By Samir F. Ghattas

The Associated Press

WADI AL IZZIYEH, Lebanon —

The rattle of artillery fire and the thump of shells are heard daily in the rocky hills near the Israeli border. But you can cross the area and never see anyone carrying arms.

The invisible warriors of Hizbollah, Syria's trump card in peace talks with Israel, are experts after nine years of cat-and-mouse games with Israel and its Lebanese proxies.

Money from oil-rich Iran and indoctrination by Iranian-inspired Islamic fundamentalists have turned Hizbollah from a ragtag bunch of gunmen into a formidable foe — even for Israel.

But it is Syria that controls the Hizbollah supply routes. Whenever there's momen-

tum in the Middle East peace talks, tensions and shellfire escalates in southern Lebanon, the last active Arab-Israeli warfront.

On Saturday, Hizbollah attacked an Israeli patrol in southern Lebanon and killed two soldiers.

On Sunday, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, making his third peace shuttle to the Mideast in four months, complained about Hizbollah in talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in Damascus.

On Monday morning, Hizbollah staged a hit-and-run attack on an outpost of the South Lebanon Army, a militia armed and trained by Israel.

Some members of Hizbollah, whose name means Party of God, have vowed to keep fighting until the Israelis are driven out of southern Lebanon. Others say they will stop at nothing short of the des-

truction of Israel itself.

"We will never give up resistance against the Jews and the Zionists," Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, Hizbollah's secretary-general, told a Beirut rally on Sunday. "Jerusalem is ours. We will return to it, and it will revert to us. Not a single foot of a Jew will remain on Palestine."

Despite the superiority of Israeli weaponry and soldiers, not to mention its air force which has carried out 32 raids on Lebanon this year, Hizbollah's few thousand activists continue to hit back.

The biggest Israeli problem is finding Hizbollah. On Saturday morning, Hizbollah launched at least three rockets from Wadi Al Izziyeh into the buffer zone. The Israelis apparently pinpointed the launch site long after the guerrillas had moved on.

Wadi Al Izziyeh is a sharp gorge that snakes through the bluffs overlooking one of the

narrowest spots in the Israeli buffer zone. Israel itself is barely 10 kilometres away, easily within range of Hizbollah's rockets. At other places, the Israeli-occupied swath thrusts 20 kilometres into Lebanon.

Syria, with 40,000 soldiers spread across Lebanon, controls its weaker neighbour's policies and the trails that funnel Iranian-supplied arms to Hizbollah.

With the Palestinians and Jordan already implementing peace deals with Israel, Syria is the last major holdout among the Arab states bordering Israel.

Syria wants a complete Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, captured in the 1967 war. So far, Israel has withdrawn only a partial and phased withdrawal.

Hizbollah, finding fertile recruiting ground among Lebanon's socially and economically deprived Shiite

Muslims, was founded in 1982 to export the Islamic revolution of Iran's late patriarch, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Today it has an estimated hard core of about 3,500 fighters, but it can call on thousands more trained by Iran's Revolutionary Guards in the Syrian-patrolled Bekaa Valley of Lebanon.

It became one of the most effective and most feared guerrilla groups in the Middle East after its suicide bombers killed more than 300 American and French servicemen in twin Beirut attacks in 1983.

Hizbollah was blamed by Israel for four bomb attacks last month on Israeli and Jewish targets in Latin America and Britain in which 116 people were killed and more than 100 wounded.

Israel said the largest attack, a bombing July 18 that killed 95 people at a Jewish centre in Buenos

Aires, Argentina, was in revenge for an Israeli air strike against a Hizbollah training camp in the Bekaa Valley on June 2. Up to 50 guerrilla recruits died in the air raid, Israel's deadliest in years against Hizbollah.

Hizbollah has also grown bolder and more professional at home.

Its new favourite weapon is the Sagger missile, a highly effective anti-tank weapon developed by the Soviet Union in the mid-1960s. An updated version, with a guided targeting system that no longer requires line-of-sight firing, has boosted Hizbollah's marksmanship, according to security sources who spoke on condition of anonymity.

In a July ambush that killed one Israeli soldier and wounded 13 others, Hizbollah fired 10 Sagers from 200 metres away. Four hit the target.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 Tao Tao
17:30 N.B.A. sport
18:30 News in French
18:45 Le Journal De L'Histoire
19:00 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Harry and The Handersons
21:10 The Nature of Things
22:00 News in English
22:20 The Nanny
22:50 Poldark

PRAYER TIMES

04:25 Fajr
05:57 (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:41 Dhuhr
16:21 'Asr
19:32 Maghrib
20:58 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Roman Catholic Church Tel. 622446
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 630851. Tel. 628543.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Armenian International Church Tel. 625226.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824728.

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer weather conditions will prevail with winds north-westerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp. 18/30

Aqaba 25/33

Dead Sea 17/23

Jordan Valley 24/37

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 30 Aqaba 37, Humidity

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

readings: Amman 38 per cent. Aqaba 28 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Nidal Al Dahleh 827195
Dr. Bassam Karadshah 799200
Dr. Yabys Abdul Salam 736072
Dr. Fakhr Tayeh 885380
First pharmacy 661912
Firdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Al Salam pharmacy 626772
Yacoub pharmacy 649445
Shmeisat pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 847632
IRBID:
Dr. Fayez Al Qadi 248743
Al Quds pharmacy (-)
ZARQA:
Dr. Yousef Abu Sa'd 989000
Khalaf pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 642412
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 637101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 628800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 82101
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Registrar 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 689100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Akheh Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mallat, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisat 664174
Shmeisat Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Mustashfi Hospital 667279
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164
Ittihad, Al-Mutajireen 777101/3
Al-Basrah, J. Ashrafieh 775112/6
Army, Idnaba 891611/15
Beit Al Nefes Hospital 602240/20
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/20
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarga National Hospital (09)987372
Rbn Sina Hospital (09)980560
Al Hikmah Modern Hospital (09)990930
IRBID:
Princess Beena Hospital (02)225555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)222255
Beit Al Nefes Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)341111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:30 Jeddah (RJ)
09:30 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:15 Larnaca (RJ)
10:25 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
10:25 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:15 Madrid (RJ)
17:15 London (RJ)
18:25 Istanbul (RJ)
18:25 Paris (RJ)
19:00 Brussels, Geneva (RJ)<

King orders equipment purchase for link-up with Mayo Clinic

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has ordered that the Royal Medical Services purchase the necessary equipment to link-up the King Hussein Medical Centre and the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota in the United States.

According to Yousef Gousus, director of the Royal Medical Services, the King has promised to donate the cost of the equipment and ordered that it be purchased as soon as possible.

The telemedicine link-up will allow for the diagnosis and treatment of patients in Jordan without having to travel to the Mayo Clinic, said Dr. Gousus in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

He said all hospitals in the Kingdom could later be linked with the King Hussein Medical Centre to obtain the same services.

In addition, the telemedicine connection offers an excellent opportunity for Jordanian medical teams to obtain training here as well as access to the latest medical advances through the reputed Mayo Clinic.

Earlier this year, Jihad Barghouti, chairman of the Amman Diagnostic Centre, a private sector venture, said a direct satellite link with telemedicine facilities would be established between his centre and the Mayo Clinic to facilitate on-the-spot diagnosis of patients in Amman.

The Mayo Clinic is considered one of the best medical facilities internationally.

King Hussein underwent successful cancer surgery at the Rochester facility in August 1992. He has returned to the Mayo Clinic several times since then for periodic check-ups.

Second Jordanian science week ends

Recommendations focus on national document, Armed Forces

By Rima Cortbawi

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanian Science Week Tuesday ended with a final session featuring the recommendations made by all participants.

However, "it is the start and not the end of work towards development," said Hani Mulki, president of the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST).

The session was held by senior members of the HCST, the Jordanian Armed Forces and Arab Scientists and Technologists Abroad (ASTA) who were joined by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan later.

In his address to the attendees Prince Hassan stressed the necessity of supporting such a constructive work.

The Crown Prince, who is also head of the HCST, said the end of the no-peace, no-war situation in the Middle East and the emergence of new cultural and economic challenges require developing Jordanian national industries to make them competitive in the region.

Prince Hassan said the conditions governing the economic "competitive war" require that intellectual piracy and theft come to an end.

He stressed the importance of ownership rights and called for preparing a mechanism to maintain the dialogue among scholars and scientists in order to prepare for confronting the cultural, economic and scientific challenges facing the Kingdom.

Prince Hassan said the European Union (EU),

which signed one agreement and four protocols with Jordan in 1975, is seeking to sign a new agreement with the Kingdom and other countries of the East, conforming to new prevailing conditions. He pointed to Israel's relative experience since 1975 in signing agreements with the EU.

The Crown Prince stressed the need for Jordan to sign a new agreement with the European Union thus enabling the Kingdom to occupy a distinguished status in Europe.

The recommendations involve both the National Document of Science and Technology and the Armed Forces.

Concerning the document, total support and preparation of programmes for execution of projects that take priority were approved.

Work will now include follow-up on holding a conference for financial supporters of the projects, establishing mutual communication between science and technology institutions in all sectors (whether public or private) and strengthening ties with ASTA members — especially by advancing telephone networks.

The participants recommended careful consideration of requiring new PhDs to conduct research for two years before entrusting them with academic responsibilities. They also insisted on reviewing their introduction of patenting procedures in Jordan.

It was recommended that the Armed Forces prepare a comprehensive book and a



Attendees to the Second Jordanian Science Week Tuesday listen to final deliberations (Petra photo)

documentary film on all aspects of the Great Arab Revolt, incorporate the subject of land strategies at war-time in the Armed Forces curriculum, work on clarifying their insurmountable role in securing peace and development in the region and concentrate on further interaction and coordination with all other scientific and technological institutions. They suggested, for example, frequent publication of the work of the Armed Forces.

In addition, the Armed Forces are to resume efforts to increase general awareness so that accidents can be avoided and to improve medical facilities in order to overcome injuries and ailments.

Issuing booklets covering available fields of specialisation will also be beneficial for service and productive institutions, which can likewise use the working papers of the science week selected (over a period of three months) for publication. "The Armed Forces presented 32 papers this week," said Talal Alkashab, director of development at the General Secretariat of the HCST.

"A comprehensive report on what has been achieved will be issued next year for evaluation, praise or reproach," said Dr. Mulki.

Tuesday's two other sessions dealt with three working papers on medicine and a discussion of the National Document on Science and

Technology revolving around the role of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), water, continual development and contents of the document.

The first paper handled research conducted on methods of dental treatment using orthodontics.

The cases of children suffering from dislocations in their vertebral column were discussed in the second. The paper provided a comprehensive medical study that was performed on school students, a detailed study on AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) cases and another comprehensive study in poor working conditions, from a medical point of view.

Trade talks in Cairo centre on expansion

CAIRO (Petra) — Jordan's ambassador to Egypt, Nayef Al Qadi, Tuesday described the ongoing trade talks between Jordanian and Egyptian officials in Cairo as designed to deal with development and expansion in implementing joint ventures.

The talks are held within the framework of Jordanian-Egyptian economic cooperation and in line with both countries' policies on boosting trade exchanges and bilateral ties, said Mr. Qadi.

He said bilateral relations are strengthened in light of the progress in the Middle East peace process, particularly on the Jordanian-Israeli track.

Mr. Qadi said that following the completion of successful Arab-Israeli negotiations, the Middle East could witness the emergence of regional cooperation similar to the situation prevailing among the members of the European Community.

The ambassador said he believed that the Middle East would see the emergence of an economic bloc that would be of great benefit to the Arab World.

The meeting in Cairo is being held in implementation of decisions taken by the higher joint Jordanian-Egyptian Committee which met in Amman earlier this year.

Abequa family resists pressure to hand over children

AMMAN (AP) — The family of a Jordanian citizen who has confessed to killing his wife is resisting pressure to hand over his two children to the mother of his slain wife in the United States, family members and lawyers said in remarks published Tuesday.

The Arabic Ad-Dustour daily quoted Adnan Abequa, brother of Mohammad Abequa, as vowing not to relinquish custody of Mohammad's children Lisa, 6, and Sami, 3.

Mohammad Abequa, 46, is in Jordanian custody on charges of first degree murder and kidnapping. He has told reporters and police investigators that he killed his wife, Nihal, 40, at her New Jersey apartment July 4 and fled to Jordan with the two children.

Mr. Abequa, who was arrested July 20, is expected to be put on trial in Jordan with evidence supplied by U.S. law-enforcement agencies.

The U.S. embassy has said it will continue to press for his extradition although no extradition treaty exists between the U.S. and Jordan.

Nesime Dokur of Paterson, New Jersey, sister of the deceased, arrived in Jordan last week after His Majesty King Hussein invited her following high-level intervention from Washington and New Jersey lawmakers.

Ms. Dokur, representing the children's maternal grandmother Meryem Gossal in the U.S., has said she was assured that she would get custody of the children, who are under the care of their father's mother in an Amman suburb.

Two local lawyers appointed by Ms. Dokur to represent Mrs. Gossal have hinted that an out-of-court settlement is possible. Under Islamic Sharia law, priority is given in child custody cases to the maternal grandmother.

However, the Abequas have vowed not to let go of the two children, who have been visited at least twice by U.S. diplomats.

Ad-Dustour quoted Saleh Al Maghrabi, a lawyer representing the Abequas, as saying that "a quick decision on the case."

Judicial sources said the case had not yet reached court.

U.K. university to admit qualified IBS graduates

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The University of Wales Bangor in the United Kingdom will accept applications from graduates of the Institute of Banking Studies (IBS) in Jordan for admission in its bachelors degree programme in banking, finance or insurance, according to a statement by IBS Dean Adeeb Haddad.

Dr. Haddad told the Jordan Times that agreement between IBS and the University of Wales Bangor was concluded this week during his visit to the university where he held talks with its administration and faculty on coordination and cooperation at the academic and training levels.

The agreement is seen as benefiting the IBS graduates who wish to pursue higher studies and obtain a bachelors degree following their two-year training courses at the IBS in Amman, according to Dr. Haddad.

The move will be a major step forward towards training Jordanian personnel employed in financial and banking institutions or those seeking employment with these organisations after completing their studies, said Dr. Haddad.

He added that agreement was reached whereby IBS would send trainees for more advanced courses organised by the University of Wales Bangor in finance and banking.

According to the agreement, the two sides will launch cooperation in the exchange of information and expertise and in holding joint



Adeeb Haddad

training courses in Jordan for personnel employed by Jordanian banks and financial institutions, said Dr. Haddad.

When asked about earlier plans to upgrade the IBS into a fully-fledged university awarding bachelors degrees in financial and banking studies, Dr. Haddad said that a committee finalised the requirements for the change in a report to the Minister of Higher Education.

According to Dr. Haddad, the Council of Higher Education has set up a panel to study the IBS proposed bachelors degree programme.

Founded in 1970, the IBS turned out its first graduates in 1973 after a two-year training course.

According to Dr. Haddad, 937 graduates have completed the IBS programme which includes training in regular banking procedures, finance and Islamic banking procedures.

Calls to occupied territories are not toll free — TCC

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) Tuesday denied rumours that telephone calls originating from Jordan to the occupied territories and Israel were toll-free.

A TCC official said all calls made to the occupied territories and Israel since direct telephone lines were opened Monday are all toll calls which have been recorded by the TCC exchange in Amman.

Earlier local reports in the press said that the calls made on the first three days of the opening of these lines would be free of charge.

Many Jordanians have been placing calls to their relatives and friends in the West Bank and in Israel

since Monday by dialing the international code 00972 first, but several subscribers reported that the connections were not as clear as expected.

Last week Minister of Post and Communications Hashem Dabbas was quoted as saying that the TCC had made all technical preparations for the linkage.

TCC officials said the linkage would be made on the same day of the inauguration of the border crossing between Jordan and Israel at Aqaba and Eilat Monday.

A report in the local Al Dustour daily Tuesday quoted a TCC official as saying that the telephone call charge for each minute, day or night, is JD 1.2.

The TCC official said that the area codes for Jerusalem, Ramallah,

Bethlehem, Hebron, Jericho, Al Bireh, Beit Sahour, and Bir Zeit (2); for Naharia, Haifa and Acre (4); for Jaffa, Tel Aviv and Salfit (3); Safad, Um Al Fahm, Affouleh, Jenin, Nazareth, and Tiberias (6); Gaza, Eilat, Jabalia (7); Lidda, Ramleh, Bisan (8); Nabulus, Tul-karm, Qalqiliyeh, Howara, Natania (9); Bir Al Sabe (5); and Ben Gurion Airport (3).

Israel opened the direct dialing facility more than a year ago in a unilateral move that was then rejected by Jordan.

Opening direct dialing between Jordan and Israel was part of a series of measures stipulated in the Washington Declaration signed last month by His Majesty King Hussein and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Fuheis festival stages off target programme

By Angham Tamimi

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Just like the Jerash Festival programme, Fuheis was off target in the sense that the audience was introduced to only two Iraqi singers instead of the three scheduled.

Ala Sa'ad, 29, has sung children's songs since his own childhood. He studied music at the Academy of Fine Arts in Baghdad. When he grew older, he joined the Inshad Folklore Singing Group. Having recorded 24 songs, he participated in the Babylon Festival in 1993.

'Adel Hashimi, a renowned Iraqi music critic, has described Ala Sa'ad's voice level and style as the best among the contemporaries. But, surprisingly, his audiences are somehow small.

After singing several Iraqi, Lebanese and Egyptian songs, the more than 3,000 audience in Fuheis began shouting for the other Iraqi singer, Ali Isawi, to show up.

Fuheis Festival was to have paved the way for Ala Sa'ad to meet the Jordanian people for the first time. "I felt embarrassed when I heard the audience asking me to leave the stage and requesting my colleague," Mr. Sa'ad told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Sa'ad believes that Mr. Isawi had visited Jordan many times before and his cassettes played everywhere in the Kingdom and thus, became popular here. He added that it was not the quality of his colleague's voice, or his style that made him so welcomed, rather it

was a matter of popularity. So confident, Mr. Sa'ad thought that he knew everything about music, and he could answer any question related to it. "I know how to write notes and how to play the oud. I do not even need to rehearse," said Mr. Sa'ad. "So, no need to make further studies or research in this field!"

Ali Isawi's voice is "illiterate" according to music critics. But his Iraqi, Jordanian and Gulf audiences are large. After his performance at Fuheis Forum, he was surrounded by his fans, and spent a good deal of time signing autographs.

Although the audience was so involved in the performance, and kept applauding all through the show, no art was presented.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FUHEIS FIFTH FESTIVAL

- ★ Concert by Iraqi and Syrian vocalists Hashim Yousef and Jihad Al Amir at the main theatre, off the Greek Orthodox Convent at 21:00.
- ★ Lecture in Arabic by Dr. 'Adel Zaidat entitled "Papers from the History of Fuheis" at the festival site at 18:30.
- ★ Poetry recital by poets Bassel Rafaf'ah, Ali Al Ameri, Ghazi Al Dhahab, Mohammad Al Ameri, and Mohammad Obaidallah at the festival site at 19:30.
- ★ Exhibition of Jordanian scripts, documents, and books.
- ★ Abstract art paintings exhibition by Salwa Amman, Darya Zetfah, Norma Hattar, and Hana Tameh.
- ★ Exhibition on the city of Salt.

- ★ Caricature drawings exhibition by Imad Hajjaj, Kifah Mahmoud, and Khaldoun Gharaibeh.
- ★ Exhibition of handicrafts.
- ★ Comprehensive agricultural exhibition (held for the first time with the participation of the private and public sectors).

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Princess Wijdan Ali at the Balqa Art Gallery in Fuheis (10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 720677).
- ★ Exhibition of ceramic works by Samar Tarazi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of water paintings by Sudanese artist Abdul Qadir Al Bakhit at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 687596).

Tunnel to open on time

AMMAN (J.T.) — As part of the Kingdom's celebration of the 42nd anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the Throne, which falls on Thursday, Amman Municipality is organising a ceremony that day to formally open Al Rawdah traffic tunnel on the University of Jordan road.

It took the municipality exactly two months to complete construction of the 400-metre-long tunnel at a cost of JD 600,000, according to a municipality official.

The tunnel, he said, is designed to reduce traffic con-

gestion on this major road linking Amman with Sweileh, Jubeiha and Salt to the West, and Jerash and the cities in the north, the official said.

According to the official, the tunnel which is 19.5 metres wide and 5.15 metres high was necessary to ease the traffic buildup along this road particularly during rush hours.

Municipality teams, backed by heavy road machinery worked around the clock over the past 60 days to finish the work in time for the celebration on August 11, as promised by Mayor Mamdouh Al Abbadi.

Husband kills wife for alleged adultery

By Rana Hussein

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A 25-year-old Deir Alla woman who was shot on Sunday evening by her husband in the Sawalha area of Salt, for alleged adultery, died Monday in hospital, according to police and Civil Defence Department (CDD) reports.

The reports said Hamda K.M. received one bullet to the genitalia. Her husband, Mohammad S., surrendered to police shortly after the incident, the report said.

According to the report, the husband was told by close friends Sunday that his wife was seeing another man.

Mohammad went home, took his gun and shot his wife, the report said.

The woman was rushed

to Muadi Medical Centre, but was transferred the same day to Salt Hospital. Hamda underwent surgery to remove the bullet, but died the next day, a hospital source told the Jordan Times.

Salt police confirmed the killing and said that the man was being held in custody but they declined to give further details.

Hamda's death is the 14th reported in association with a crime of honour in the Kingdom since January.

Car accident kills youth

One person was burnt beyond recognition, and two people were injured Monday evening following a tragic road accident in Amman, according to CDD and police reports.

Kiwan Mohammad, 18, died as a result of first

degree burns when the car he was riding in went out of control, rolled over and was engulfed with flames.

Imad Radwan, the driver of the car, told police that he lost control of his vehicle when a taxi driver who was speeding, overtook him and swerved to the right lane, causing his car to veer sharply to the right and roll over.

Mr. Radwan said that he and a third passenger were able to escape, but their friend Kiwan, who was sitting in the back seat, was stuck and the car started burning before they were able to pull him out.

According to CDD reports, the blaze destroyed the car. The reports, however, did not indicate if the taxi driver was arrested. Police said they are investigating the incident.

U.S. grants new \$15m aid to Haiti, but release delayed

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States donated \$15 million worth of wheat flour to Haiti Monday, but said the lion's share of the donation will not be released until ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide returns to power.

"The United States government insists on the restoration of constitutional government in Haiti, represented by President Jean-Bertrand Aristide," said Brian Atwood, administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, the agency in charge of the grant.

The wheat flour, donated through the U.S. Food for Development Programme, will be sold at Haitian ports to local users. The proceeds will then be distributed to relief agencies and other groups to be used in feeding and jobs programmes and other development projects.

Also announced at the signing of the agreement was an upcoming "informal donors conference" on Aug. 26 on Haitian reconstruction. The conference will be sponsored by the World Bank.

Washington granted \$20 million worth of wheat flour to Haiti last year under the same programme.

But this year, in an effort to make sure the proceeds do not get into the hands of Haiti's military government and to put more pressure on anti-Aristide forces, most of the donation will be held until Mr. Aristide is in power again.

Under the agreement reached after lengthy consultations between U.S. and Haitian officials, only the portion of the donation — about \$3 million worth — to be used for food distribution programmes will be released right away.

About \$9.4 million to be used toward job creation programmes and other economic development projects will be withheld pending Mr. Aristide's return to power. The remaining money will go toward administrative costs of the programme.

IRA Kurzman, council to the Aristide government, said he was hopeful that Mr.

Aristide would be back in power soon and that none of the money would have to be held up.

"Soon we expect to celebrate the restoration of hope in Haiti," said Mr. Aristide at a signing ceremony of the agreement.

But recent developments in Haiti, including a large pro-military demonstration over the weekend and the expulsion of three U.S. reporters, indicated military leader Lieutenant General Raoul Cedras was continuing to dig in his heels.

The agreement also calls for more frequent consultations with Mr. Aristide on the progress of the programme and restricts certain persons friendly to the Haitian military government from purchasing any of the wheat flour or carrying out any of the food distribution or other projects.

Last year's \$20 million donation did not impose any similar restrictions, and while both U.S. and Haitian officials were careful to praise

the benefits of the programme, a Haitian official admitted, "there has been some problems with who's been the recipient of the programme."

Mr. Atwood estimated that even with the new restrictions, proceeds generated by the sale of the wheat flour will enable the feeding of some 1 million young, old and handicapped Haitians. "It is important to protect the most vulnerable of Haiti's people," he said.

Recent studies show that hunger and malnutrition in Haiti, long a problem, continue to be widespread and are worsening. Current statistics from aid show that almost half of Haiti's youngsters under five years of age suffer some degree of malnutrition, and that about 3-5 per cent of all children suffer severe malnutrition.

Unemployment has also been a huge problem in Haiti. Officials said Monday that last year's \$20 million donation will ultimately give work to about 100,000 Haitians for an average of two months.

Nigeria's striking oilmen target crude export

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria's main striking oil workers union said Tuesday it was stepping up its campaign to halt crude oil production and exports to force army rulers to hand power to detained presidential claimant Moshood Abiola.

"We are intensifying our campaign to stop crude oil production. We don't want money to come into the pockets of the military junta," Wariebe Agamene, national president of the National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG), said.

Mr. Agamene gave no details of his union's plans.

"We cannot reveal our strategy," he said. The 150,000-strong NUPENG began the strike on July 4 to demand the release of Mr. Abiola, widely believed to have won last

year's annulled presidential election, and his installation as president of Nigeria.

The 50,000-strong white-collar oil workers union PENGASSAN joined the strike two weeks later.

The strike has disrupted domestic fuel supplies, hitting transport and business activity, and industry sources say it has cut crude oil production by at least 25 per cent.

Mr. Abiola was arrested in June and charged with treason for declaring himself president.

Officials of both NUPENG and PENGASSAN say their oil unions are prepared for a long strike.

"We are going to stay out for as long as the government refuses to swear in the acclaimed winner of the June 12 (1993) election," Mr. Agamene said.

Practical help for AIDS babies still seen remote

YOKOHAMA, Japan (Agencies) — AIDS experts said Tuesday that while early clinical tests were encouraging, it was much too soon to say that the drug Zidovudine could effectively prevent mothers passing the AIDS virus on to their babies.

A study presented to the 10th international conference

on AIDS found Zidovudine, previously called AZT, administered to HIV-infected pregnant women and their infants reduced the risk of maternal transmission by two-thirds.

On Monday, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved Zidovudine for use in the United States in

preventing transmission of the AIDS virus during pregnancy and childbirth.

But medical experts cautioned that there was more research to be done before such treatment can be widely and affordably available, especially to the developing countries most vulnerable to the explosion of

AIDS.

"There is a need to refine the use of Zidovudine in pregnant women, particularly in countries where infusion during delivery is not practicable," said Yvonne Bryson, professor of paediatrics at the University of California in Los Angeles.

Indian Hindu leader threatens Muslim pilgrims

BOMBAY (Agencies) — A powerful Indian Hindu leader has threatened to stop Muslim pilgrims to Mecca from passing through Bombay if Kashmiri separatists carry out a threat to disrupt a Hindu pilgrimage, local newspapers said Tuesday.

"If any harm is caused to the (Hindu) pilgrims, the Shiv Sena will ensure that not a single Muslim will go on the haj," the daily quoted Bal Thackeray, the head of the militant Shiv Sena, as saying of Islam's holiest pilgrimage.

Mr. Thackeray, whose unions control much of the labour in Bombay, India's commercial capital, called on the government to protect Hindu pilgrims heading to the sacred Amarnath Temple in Jammu and Kashmir state from Aug. 21.

Harakatul Ansar, one of the many groups fighting New Delhi's rule of Jammu and Kashmir, largely Hindu India's only Muslim majority state, has threatened to prevent the Amarnath pilgrimage. The government has sworn to protect them.

The Kashmiri group made the threat in order to press for the dismantling of bunkers built by Indian security forces around Hazratbal, the Himalayan region's holiest Islamic shrine, to prevent it being used as a militant base.

The bunkers were dismantled at the weekend and Kashmiri leaders promised to try to persuade Harakatul Ansar to withdraw its threat. There has been no public response so far from Harakatul Ansar.

Bombay's Independent newspaper quoted Mr. Thackeray as saying Muslims going on the haj would have to face the consequences of any harm coming to Hindu pilgrims.

He said 15,000 Shiv Sena supporters would be in Jammu and Kashmir to protect the pilgrims, the newspaper added.

Mr. Thackeray also complained the government was spending too much money subsidising the travel of haj pilgrims on chartered planes belonging to state-run Air India.

"This is nothing but pampering the minorities. The government has no business to waste so much of foreign exchange," the daily quoted Mr. Thackeray as saying.



A member of the youth wing of the ruling Congress (I) Party holds a torch and a banner during a rally in New Delhi condemning Pakistan for its alleged role in supporting Kashmiri Muslim militants (AFP photo)

second largest population of Muslims behind Indonesia. But India's 120 million Muslims are a minority in the country's mainly Hindu population of 900 million.

The government has offered to negotiate with guerrilla groups in Kashmir about eventually holding elections there, but it also plans to ask parliament to extend federal rule in the war-torn state for another six months.

Jammu-Kashmir has been controlled by the federal government and its soldiers since the battle for independence erupted in 1947.

The most powerful guerrilla groups want Jammu-Kashmir to become part of Pakistan, India's Islamic arch-enemy, and they have rejected any election that fails to offer the voters that option.

On Monday, Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao met with cabinet ministers and state administration officials and asked them to meet with leaders of the pro-

independence Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front and the all-party Hurriyat Conference, an umbrella organisation of 32 separatist groups, news agencies reported.

Mr. Rao asked the officials to discuss the possibility of holding elections in the state next year.

But Mr. Rao's cabinet also decided to ask parliament in the next few days to extend federal rule in the state for six months, and the legislators have never hesitated to do that.

More than 9,500 people have been killed in the fighting between the rebels and army soldiers.

Meanwhile, a key suspect in last year's multiple bombings in Bombay has accused Pakistan's military intelligence of planning the attacks which killed more than 300 people in the western Indian city.

In an interview shown on state-run television last Tuesday, Yaqub Abdul Razak Ibrahim said his elder brother Ibrahim "Tiger" Memon had

been assigned by the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) to carry out the bombings.

Advance excerpts of the interview by Newstrack, a television programme produced privately, were published by Indian newspapers.

"They (ISI) supplied arms, explosives through their agent... and they dictated the spots" where the bombs should be planted, Mr. Memon, whose arrest was announced here Friday, said.

He said his brother "Tiger," a Bombay gangster declared a fugitive by Indian authorities, was contacted by the ISI and asked to carry out the conspiracy to avenge Hindu militant attacks on Muslims in the Bombay riots of January 1993.

Pakistan has denied complicity in the March 12, 1993 blasts at Bombay commercial landmarks. Some 317 people were killed and about 1,000 injured in the world's bloodiest urban terrorist strike.

In the interview, Mr. Memon, being held in a New Delhi detention centre, narrated how he, Tiger, and other family members fled to the Pakistani city of Karachi via Dubai a day before the blasts.

He said Pakistani government officials whisked them through immigration without stamping their passports, and took them to Bangkok for 12 days in April 1993 when India mounted diplomatic pressure over the bombings.

The interview was aired amid a new propaganda offensive launched by India against Pakistan following Mr. Memon's arrest, which New Delhi said had provided it with "irrefutable" proof of Pakistani involvement in the Bombay blasts.

Investigators have released photocopies of false documents they claim were provided to Mr. Memon by Pakistani authorities and named an alleged ISI agent, Taufiq Siddique Jalliwala, as the "moving force" behind the bombing plot.

On Tuesday, some 250 members of the youth wing of India's ruling Congress (I) Party staged a noisy anti-Pakistan protest in the capital's diplomatic enclave and burned an effigy of Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

The demonstrators were dispersed by police using water cannon, witnesses said.



Children pray for the atomic bomb victims at a church to mark the 49th anniversary of the atomic bombing of the western Japan port city, Nagasaki (AFP photo)

Nagasaki mayor urges elimination of nuclear weapons from the world

TOKYO (AFP) — Nagasaki Mayor Hitoshi Motoshima renewed his calls to eliminate nuclear weapons from the world as the western port city marked the 49th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing Tuesday.

"Nuclear weapons are an absolute evil, capable of annihilating the human race," Mr. Motoshima said at a peace ceremony attended by 25,000 people, including survivors of the bombing as well as Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama.

The 72-year-old mayor, himself a survivor of the blast, urged the Murayama government to declare to the world that "the use of nuclear weapons violates international law."

In June, the administration of Mr. Murayama's predecessor, Tsutomu Hata, retracted a plan to acknowledge the legality of nuclear weapons following strong criticism from the public, particularly sufferers of the atomic bomb-

ings of Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945, and of Nagasaki three days later.

Mr. Motoshima also voiced strong opposition to an unconditional and indefinite extension of the present Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which allows global nuclear powers to continue possessing such weapons.

Preceding Mr. Motoshima's "peace declaration" speech, participants of the ceremony gave one minute of silent prayer for the 102,275 atomic bombing victims, including 3,050 who died over the last year. About 70,000 perished in the blast or from the effects of radiation by the end of 1945.

In his speech, the mayor called on the government to enact a new law to provide extra aid to sufferers of the two atomic bombings before the 50th anniversary next year, adding that the law should cover forced labourers from the Korean peninsula and China.

Prime Minister Murayama, however, did not touch upon the relief law, as was the case with the similar ceremony in Hiroshima three days ago. He merely said his government would "make efforts to enhance measures to support atomic bombing sufferers."

Japanese politicians fear that such a law would enable new demands from Asian individuals who suffered from Japan's military aggression in Asia.

Mr. Murayama, the first Socialist prime minister in 47 years, told the crowd at the Municipal Rugby and Soccer Stadium near the epicentre of the bombing that he would seek nuclear disarmament through the United Nations.

"I vow to the spirit of the dead that I will make further efforts to promote nuclear disarmament, stem the spread of nuclear arsenals and, ultimately, eliminate nuclear arms," Mr. Murayama said.

Karabakh peace 'may be signed soon'

MOSCOW (R) — A senior Armenian official said Tuesday that his country and Azerbaijan could sign a peace treaty this month ending their bloody dispute over the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Armenian parliament Speaker Babken Araktsyan told ITAR-TASS news agency that heads of the two states could sign the draft of a "comprehensive political treaty" on Aug. 30, bringing the war to a close.

The intractable conflict has consistently defied peace efforts by Russia, Turkey and the international community. Imminent peace deals have been announced several times but have come to naught.

Several thousand people have been killed in six and a half years of fighting over Karabakh, a mainly

Armenian-populated territory allotted to Azerbaijan by the Kremlin in 1923.

Mr. Araktsyan, who made his comments in St. Petersburg, gave no indication of the basis for his optimism. There was no immediate reaction from Azerbaijan to his remarks.

Mr. Araktsyan said the draft treaty provided for a complete ceasefire between the opposing sides and a disengagement monitored by peacekeepers and observers.

He added this would be followed by a gradual withdrawal of Armenian Karabakh forces from occupied Azeri lands — an apparent reference to those Azeri areas outside the enclave which Karabakh forces have seized.

A major question left unresolved by Mr. Araktsyan was what role would be played in the peace treaty by the separatist Karabakh Armenians themselves.

They have the military upper hand in the conflict and regard themselves as a separate party.

Armenia is not formally involved in the war. But it provides logistic and diplomatic support to the Karabakh Armenians and allows its volunteers to fight in the rugged territory.

Both Azerbaijan and Armenia badly need an end to the war, the longest-running of any of the conflicts of the old Soviet Union. Azerbaijan has lost huge numbers of fighters in the war, which has caused the fall of at least two governments.

The war has led to Azerbaijan imposing a crippling energy embargo on its landlocked neighbour, paralysing the Armenian economy.

Angola government, rebels adopt accord

LUSAKA (R) — Angolan government negotiators signed an 11-point procedural agreement with UNITA rebels Tuesday but thorny questions of power-sharing still stand in the way of a peace pact.

UNITA spokesman Jorge Valente and government spokesman Caneiro Higinio told Reuters they were adopting the procedural accord before moving on to the next agenda item at long-running peace talks — the security of UNITA leaders.

"We are adopting today the 11 points on the modalities on national reconciliation

and we will start to discuss the security of UNITA leaders next," Mr. Higinio said.

"We are not signing an agreement on national reconciliation... there are other issues still needing before a full agreement can be reached on national reconciliation," said Mr. Valente.

Details of the 11-point agreement were not made public. Mr. Valente said issues still outstanding included which side would control Huambo, the central Angolan province where UNITA leaders Jonas Savimbi has his headquarters.

Both the rebels and the government have rejected a proposal for a neutral administration of Huambo.

Angola's deputy foreign minister, Jorge Chicoty, said Monday in the Zambian capital Lusaka, the venue for the peace talks, that his government supported further U.N. sanctions against UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) because the rebels were being inflexible.

The United Nations has threatened to extend sanctions against UNITA if the rebels fail to agree to a peace deal by the end of July.

Kuchma takes control over government

KIEV (R) — Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma has issued two decrees putting himself directly in charge of the government and subordinating all local councils to the presidency, state television said Monday.

Mr. Kuchma won a decisive election victory over incumbent Leonid Kravchuk last month on a pledge to improve the faltering economy and build closer ties with Russia.

The decrees, which give Mr. Kuchma the power to set the government's agenda and appoint and sack the heads of powerful state committees, are in line with his assertions that he will create a strong presidency.

One decree gives Mr. Kuchma hands-on control of the government in order to boost the executive branch's power to implement economic reforms in the former

Soviet republic.

"The most important issues of realising economic transformations, forming market relations and providing social protection will be resolved by the cabinet of ministers with the direct participation of the president of Ukraine," said the decree, which was read on state television news.

Prime Minister Vitaly Masol will remain in his post.

The second decree subordinates the heads of Ukraine's 27 regional councils directly to the president, filling an executive power vacuum created when a system of presidential representatives was dissolved in July.

State television said the decree were signed Saturday but were made public during the broadcast.

Mr. Kuchma has already

clashed with the parliament, whose powerful Communist lobby favours weakening the post of president or doing away with it altogether.

Earlier Monday he issued the first of a planned series of decrees on economic issues, which tightened control over financial aid to state enterprises.

In a separate development, a leading member of the Ukrainian Liberal Party in the parliament was badly wounded Tuesday in a machinegun attack by unidentified assailants, police said.

Alexander Rudev, a member of the party's Executive Council, was shot in Sevastopol, city police said. Two of Mr. Rudev's bodyguards were also hit and hospitalised.

The motive was not known and an inquiry was underway, police said.

Jackson finishes video shoot, leaves Budapest

BUDAPEST (R) — Pop superstar Michael Jackson and his bride Lisa Marie Presley left Hungary aboard his private jet Tuesday after stirring up Budapest with the shooting of a music video portraying him as Eastern Europe's liberator. The Jacksons arrived in the Hungarian capital last Friday after their first joint public appearance since Lisa Marie, daughter of rock legend Elvis Presley, announced last week they had wed in secret in the Dominican Republic. Shooting of the video at the most scenic spots in Budapest and the couple's visits to two children's hospitals attracted hundreds of near-hysterical fans and intense media interest.

On Monday Jackson announced through an interpreter that he will pay all medical expenses of a four-year-old Hungarian boy who needs a liver transplant. Jackson spotted the boy, Bela Farkas, in one of the two hospitals where he and Lisa Marie distribute toys to sick children last Saturday.

Mr. Murayama, however, did not touch upon the relief law, as was the case with the similar ceremony in Hiroshima three days ago. He merely said his government would "make efforts to enhance measures to support atomic bombing sufferers."

Japanese politicians fear that such a law would enable new demands from Asian individuals who suffered from Japan's military aggression in Asia.

Mr. Murayama, the first Socialist prime minister in 47 years, told the crowd at the Municipal Rugby and Soccer Stadium near the epicentre of the bombing that he would seek nuclear disarmament through the United Nations.

"I vow to the spirit of the dead that I will make further efforts to promote nuclear disarmament, stem the spread of nuclear arsenals and, ultimately, eliminate nuclear arms," Mr. Murayama said.

They have the military upper hand in the conflict and regard themselves as a separate party.

Armenia is not formally involved in the war. But it provides logistic and diplomatic support to the Karabakh Armenians and allows its volunteers to fight in the rugged territory.

Both Azerbaijan and Armenia badly need an end to the war, the longest-running of any of the conflicts of the old Soviet Union. Azerbaijan has lost huge numbers of fighters in the war, which has caused the fall of at least two governments.

The war has led to Azerbaijan imposing a crippling energy embargo on its landlocked neighbour, paralysing the Armenian economy.

A major question left unresolved by Mr. Araktsyan was what role would be played in the peace treaty by the separatist Karabakh Armenians themselves.

They have the military upper hand in the conflict and regard themselves as a separate party.

Armenia is not formally involved in the war. But it provides logistic and diplomatic support to the Karabakh Armenians and allows its volunteers to fight in the rugged territory.

Both Azerbaijan and Armenia badly need an end to the war, the longest-running of any of the conflicts of the old Soviet Union. Azerbaijan has lost huge numbers of fighters in the war, which has caused the fall of at least two governments.

The war has led to Azerbaijan imposing a crippling energy embargo on its landlocked neighbour, paralysing the Armenian economy.

A major question left unresolved by Mr. Araktsyan was what role would be played in the peace treaty by the separatist Karabakh Armenians themselves.

They have the military upper hand in the conflict and regard themselves as a separate party.

Armenia is not formally involved in the war. But it provides logistic and diplomatic support to the Karabakh Armenians and allows its volunteers to fight in the rugged territory.

Both Azerbaijan and Armenia badly need an end to the war, the longest-running of any of the conflicts of the old Soviet Union. Azerbaijan has lost huge numbers of fighters in the war, which has caused the fall of at least two governments.

The war has led to Azerbaijan imposing a crippling energy embargo on its landlocked neighbour, paralysing the Armenian economy.

A major question left unresolved by Mr. Araktsyan was what role would be played in the peace treaty by the separatist Karabakh Armenians themselves.

They have the military upper hand in the conflict and regard themselves as a separate party.

Armenia is not formally involved in the war. But it provides logistic and diplomatic support to the Karabakh Armenians and allows its volunteers to fight in the rugged territory.

U.N. Sarajevo airlift resumes

SARAJEVO (R) — The United Nations airlift into Sarajevo resumed Tuesday, relaxing a stranglehold the Bosnian Serbs have clamped on the beleaguered city.

In northwestern Bosnia, nearly 7,000 soldiers and civilians loyal to a rebel Muslim leader fled from the Bihac enclave into neighbouring Croatia following advances by Muslim forces loyal to the government in Sarajevo.

The retreat appeared to mark the effective collapse of forces loyal to maverick Bihac businessman Fikret Abdic, a United Nations spokesman said in Zagreb.

In central Bosnia, the Muslim-led Bosnian army appeared to be sending reinforcements to front lines facing territories held by the Bosnian Serbs.

The Bosnian army has been taking advantage of a rift between the Bosnian Serbs and their backers in Belgrade and has pressed home offensive and seized territory in recent days.

"The Canadian (U.N.) battalion reported a high level of (Bihac) (Bosnian army) troop movements through the Kiseljak pocket in the direction of Zreza and Kresovo after dark," said U.N. military spokesman Major Rob Annink.

The Serbian-led Yugoslav government in Belgrade last Thursday broke off relations with the Bosnian Serbs because of their continued refusal to accept an international peace plan.

Anxious to avoid a threatened escalation of international sanctions, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic ordered the borders between Yugoslavia and Bosnia to be closed to all but food, medicine and humanitarian aid.

The Bosnian Serbs have remained defiant, and have declared they will go ahead with a referendum on Aug.

27-28, which is expected to produce a further rejection of the peace plan drawn up by the international "contact group" comprising Russia, the United States, Britain, Germany and France.

Bosnian Serb officials said Tuesday that one million ballot papers were being printed.

Bosnian Serbs will be asked "Are you in favour of the maps on the territorial demarcation of the former Bosnia-Herzegovina, as proposed by the international contact group?" the Bosnian Serb News Agency (SRNA) reported.

Officials in the Bosnian Serb stronghold of Pale described the Serbian blockade as "a life-threatening emergency."

Prices of some foods and fuel had already started to rise in the mountain resort just outside Sarajevo.

In Sarajevo, U.N. officials said the Bosnian Serbs had ordered a block on the movement of U.N. military convoys Tuesday, in an apparent escalation of their war of nerves with the U.N. Protection Force.

The Serbian blockade, although providing for the transport of humanitarian supplies into Bosnia, was actually preventing their movement.

Peter Kessler, a spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, said the Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) had given approval for six U.N. convoys, but they did not get past the Yugoslav border because of the blockade.

"The BSA told us we had convoy clearance to Srebrenica and six other towns in eastern Bosnia but I am told all those convoys have gone back because of the border blockade," he said.

However, the international airlift to Sarajevo resumed Tuesday, after having been

interrupted for 19 days, except for a brief resumption last Friday before being suspended as a security precaution.

A Canadian C-130 cargo plane was the first of 14 flights scheduled to land Tuesday, according to the UNHCR.

The airlift was stopped on July 21 after a spate of incidents in which aircraft came under fire at the airport.

Food prices have soared in Sarajevo since the Bosnian Serbs cut the only overland route into the city last month.

In Zagreb, the United Nations said thousands of civilians and soldiers loyal to Mr. Abdic were fleeing to Croatia.

Spokesman Paul Risley told reporters: "Five thousand one hundred civilians and 1,600 armed and uniformed soldiers are crossing the border... this would appear to represent the end of Mr. Abdic's forces as an effective fighting unit."

Mr. Abdic, a businessman and former member of the Muslim-led Bosnian leadership, split with Sarajevo almost a year ago and declared autonomy in part of the Bihac enclave.

"Serbia sanctions could be eased"

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Tuesday U.N. sanctions against Serbia could be eased if Belgrade's leaders follow through on promises to halt aid and material to Bosnian Serbs.

He said Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic appeared to be making good on his pledge to close the border with Serb-held areas of Bosnia, but more proof was needed before the U.N. Security Council moves to lift the sanctions.

"There has been at least partially effective attempt to close the border between Ser-

bia and Bosnia," Mr. Christopher told reporters abroad his plane from the Middle East to Washington.

"It appears Milosevic is carrying out the intention he publicly expressed by actions on the ground."

He added: "If there is a substantial period of enforcement, of the intention that was expressed, if the border was effectively closed and if the Bosnian Serbs seem to be deprived of important aid and war-making material, clearly there then would be a case for easing of the sanctions."

Another senior official said there was a consensus among the countries which drafted a peace plan for Bosnia that if Mr. Milosevic made good on his promises over a period of time, some effort would be made to lighten the impact of sanctions.

But Mr. Christopher cautioned that Belgrade had made similar promises in the past that were not fulfilled. The situation had to be watched carefully. He also said he would not be the first one to push for easing the embargo.

Meanwhile, the staff of the Bosnian Serb diplomatic mission in Belgrade have been told to leave by the Serb authorities, members of their entourage said Tuesday.

The notice to quit their offices is the latest blow to the previously strong ties between the two states, which were fractured after Serbia last week lost patience with its former ally over its rejection of the international peace plan for the region.

The intensity of diplomatic pressure on the Bosnian Serbs increased Tuesday with a meeting in Belgrade between President Milosevic and Sergio De Mello, the director of Civil Affairs for the United Nations Protection Force in Bosnia (UNPROFOR).



Tipper Gore, wife of U.S. Vice President Al Gore, comforts a Rwandan refugee during transportation to a field hospital in the Kibumba camp, near the Zairean town of Goma. Mrs. Gore, who insisted her visit was personal and said she

did not intend to draft a report after returning to Washington was in Zaire for a two-day visit to assess and help with the relief operation (AFP photo)

France to pull troops out of Rwanda as planned

PARIS (AFP) — France, under pressure to retain troops in Rwanda to forestall an exodus of terrified civilians, still plans to pull them out on schedule by Aug. 22, French military and diplomatic sources said Tuesday.

"There is no change in the timetable," one official said in Paris, adding that to maintain the force would require approval from the government installed by the former rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), which opposed French intervention, as well as a new U.N. Security Council mandate.

France set up a humanitarian safety zone in southwest Rwanda in June after ethnic carnage claimed more than 500,000 lives, but its two-month-long U.N. mandate for the so-called Operation Turquoise expires on Aug. 22.

U.N. relief officials have pleaded for the French to stay, warning that if the troops withdraw on time, hundreds of thousands of Rwandans could flee across the border, adding to the already intolerable burden on refugee camps there.

"Our feeling is that the French could stay for longer, but the decision belongs to Paris," Ray Wilkinson, spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said Monday in Goma, eastern Zaire, where more than a million Rwandans face dysentery, cholera and malnutrition.

Tens of thousands of people have died of disease and exhaustion in the camps around Goma and Bukavu, which lies further south opposite the French zone in Rwanda.

In Geneva Tuesday, UNHCR spokeswoman Sylvana Foa said, "A lot of people are talking now about a potential crossing of between 800,000 and one million people from the French safety zone."

"Please don't even think it," she said. "Bukavu cannot handle that kind of an exodus."

"It's difficult to even identify sites," to take more than "a couple of thousand" refugees, Ms. Foa added. "There is just no place there. It will be really, really awful if this happens."

The U.N. World Food Programme representative in Bukavu, Trevor Page, told a press conference in the Rwandan capital Kigali that he had seen three groups of Rwandans trekking out of the zone Monday, one of them 200 strong.

He said Bukavu was already host to some 300,000 refugees and aid workers did not have the food for them.

In another disturbing development, the UNHCR warned of a possible outbreak of typhus in the Muganga camp near Goma, after 19 persons died with symptoms similar to those of the highly infectious disease.

"There are about 30 patients in hospital this week who have high fever, red eyes, neurological symptoms that are evidently symptoms of typhus," Ms. Foa said. Nineteen of the patients have already died, she said.

She said the French army had taken blood samples to a laboratory and expected the outcome within three days. "If the result is positive, it could become an epidemic."

The aim is for troops of the U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) to replace those of Operation Turquoise, which at its peak involved some 3,000 French soldiers and African colleagues in Rwanda and Zaire.

A contingent of 700 Ethiopian UNAMIR troops was due to arrive in the safety zone on Aug. 17, French military spokesman Colonel Alain Rambeau said in Goma Monday.

"Any delay in the establishment of UNAMIR in the south could lead to a flow of refugees and residents towards Zaire and Burundi," Col. Rambeau said, adding that the Cyangugu region was particularly sensitive because of a camp of some 12,000 Tutsi refugees near the town.

The zone is largely populated by Rwandans of the Hutu ethnic majority. The Tutsi-led RPF has accused Paris of protecting Hutu former government soldiers and extremist militias blamed for the genocide of more than half a million people.

French Foreign Ministry spokesman Richard Duque said Tuesday that France would "facilitate" visits to

the zone by members of the new Rwandan government. Paris has written to the U.N. Security Council stressing that the Kigali government was "sovereign throughout Rwandan territory."

At the weekend, Rwandan Prime Minister Faustin Twagiramungu had accused France of violating the country's sovereignty and refusing to guarantee the safety of government officials inside the zone.

Mr. Duque said Rwandan officials could call on UNAMIR for "close protection" and be accompanied by UNHCR representatives, while French troops maintained "general security in the zone, according to their mandate."

The U.N. commander in Rwanda visited French-controlled safe havens in the southwest Tuesday as relief workers raced against time to head off a fresh exodus of frightened refugees to the overstretched camps of Zaire.

With his under-strength U.N. force due to take over control of the area from the French on Aug. 22, Major-General Romeo Dallaire met

Ghanaian peacekeepers in the town of Gikongoro and discussed details of the handover.

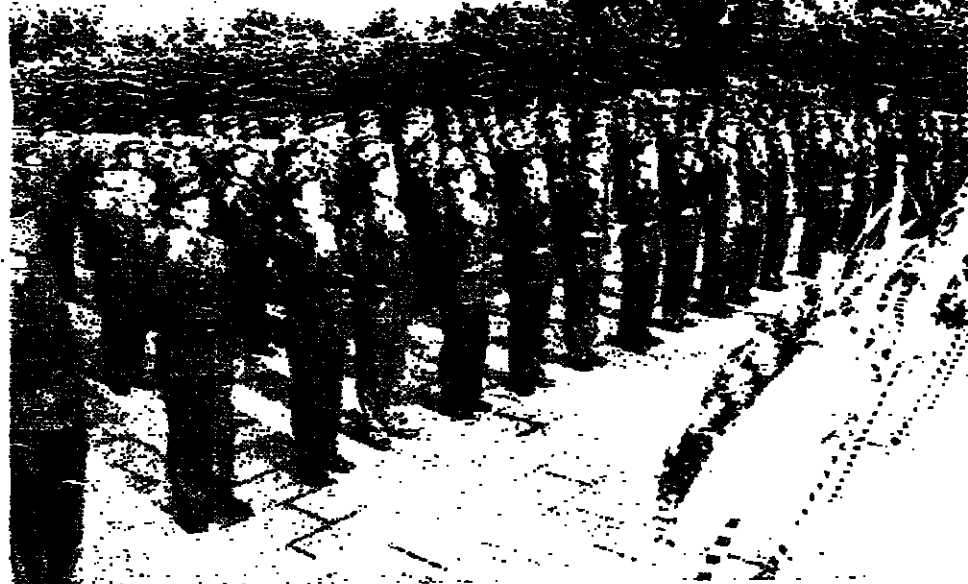
"The threat of another catastrophe when we still haven't got Goma in control is at last preoccupying the U.N. and us. The big question is whether it is all too late," said a senior aid official.

"The southwest was badly neglected by us because of what were seen as more pressing emergencies in Rwanda and Zaire. We are now having to pay the price for that neglect," he added.

Gen. Dallaire and U.N. special representative to Rwanda Shahryar Khan drove from the capital Kigali to Gikongoro, the expected epicentre of any new explosion of refugees towards Zaire.

A U.N. spokesman said they met Ghanaian U.N. troops who will take over from the French and were tying up handover details.

The United Nations has appealed to France to keep its 1,500 troops in the safe zone set up in June to reassure the displaced and frightened Hutus who sought French protection.



North Korean officers and soldiers pledge loyalty to Supreme Commander Kim Jong-Il in front of a statue of late President Kim Il-Sung in Pyongyang (AFP photo)

Kim Jong-Il expected to be named N. Korean president in mid-August

TOKYO (AFP) — Kim Jong-Il, heir-apparent to the late North Korean leader Kim Il-Sung, is expected to be formally given the top posts of government and the ruling party of the Communist country, a news report said Tuesday.

The possibility was indicated by Chinese Communist Party officials at a recent meeting in Beijing with a delegation from Japan's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Jiji Press said in a dispatch from the Chinese capital.

The LDP delegation led by the former director general of the Defence Agency, Taku Yamazaki, held talks with the Chinese officials Monday and Tuesday in Beijing.

According to the Jiji report, the Chinese officials told the Japanese delegation that the formal nomination of Kim Jong-Il as North Korean president and general secretary of the ruling Workers' Party might be completed by mid-August.

Nomination to the posts by that time is seen as necessary due to an upcoming meeting between the ruling parties of China and North Korea in late August, the Chinese officials were quoted as saying.

North Korean President Kim Il-Sung died on July 8. At the time Kim Jong-Il held the post of ruling party secretary and supreme commander of the People's Army.

There has been no official North Korean announcement on whether Kim Jong-Il was formally named North Korean president and ruling party general secretary, the posts held by his father.

North Korea's complex system of power distribution and a realignment of state organisations seems to be delaying the formal replacement of Kim Il-Sung by his son, a senior South Korean official said Tuesday.

"The transition to power by Kim Jong-Il has been virtually completed, but the implementation of official procedures is being delayed, and this may take some time," Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hong-Koo told parliament.

Mr. Lee attributed the delay in Pyongyang formalising the leadership change to "complicated and entangled work on how to distribute power and realign organisations."

The junior Kim is likely to consolidate his hold on his father's powers, but the Workers' Party may also strengthen its leadership, he predicted.

North Korea's ruling elite has pledged loyalty to Kim Jong-Il, 52, but he has yet to be confirmed as party leader and president.

Unconfirmed Japanese press reports have cited ill health as a reason for the younger Kim not being officially elected to the highest posts, saying he was suffering from cirrhosis of the liver and diabetes.

Characterising the third round of talks in Geneva as "virtually the last chance" for North Korea to resolve the nuclear impasse, Mr. Lee asserted that Pyongyang should return to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

He also said Pyongyang should pledge to normalise outside inspections of its nuclear facilities.

Mr. Lee also said South Korea would not take the initiative for resuming arrangements for an inter-Korean summit, suspended by Mr. Kim Il-Sung's death, until Pyongyang completed internal procedures and officially expressed its intentions on the summit.

With no signs of rescheduling the summit, South and North Korea have resumed their war of nerves, focused on Seoul's crackdown on radicals who expressed condolences to the Stalinist leader's death.

Meanwhile a South Korean report said Tuesday North Korea is keeping some 200,000 political malcontents in a dozen camps to consolidate its repressive rule monopolised by the later President Kim Il-Sung.

Human rights violations, beatings and malnutrition are rampant in the camps, with up to 50 prisoners dying of starvation and sickness per year at one camp in Yoduk, the report said.

Some 15 prisoners are known to be executed annually at the Yoduk camp for revolting or attempting to escape from their barracks which are surrounded by mines, booby traps and electrified fences, it said.

The report, released in parliament by Mr. Lee, was based on intelligence reports and accounts from defectors and escapees, officials here said.

The Unification Ministry did not say why it released the report Tuesday, though much of the information contained in it is not new.

15 killed in Burundi clashes

BUJUMBURA (R) — At least 15 people have been killed in two days of clashes in Burundi, a volatile central African state which diplomats fear may follow neighbouring Rwanda down the path to chaotic tribal conflict.

The clashes, involving angry youths of the minority Tutsi tribe, brought commerce to a standstill in the capital Bujumbura. Aid workers say they threaten the main U.N. supply route to Rwandan refugees in southwest Rwanda and eastern Zaire.

Trouble was sparked by the arrest of opposition politician Mathias Hitimana, leader of the Tutsi-led Party for the Reconciliation of the People.

Witnesses said scores were injured in the clashes that began Sunday and continued Monday. They counted 15 bodies killed from Sunday to Monday.

Dujumbura was calm Tuesday but markets, banks and shops were closed. Residents stayed indoors.

"The situation here is tense. Anything could happen here," a resident working for an international aid agency told Reuters.

Burundi has the same ethnic mix as Rwanda — majority Hutu, minority Tutsi — but for three decades the two countries were political mirror images of each other.

Rwandans of Hutu won control after independence from Belgium and kept it until Tutsi-led rebels emerged as winners last month from the chaos of civil war and tribal bloodbath.

Burundi's Tutsi leadership was gradually yielding power to Hutus in the last few years but renegade Tutsi soldiers murdered the country's first Hutu president, Melchior Ndadaye, last October.

Thousands of people were killed following Mr. Ndadaye's death and the country has remained unstable since then.

His successor, Cyprien Ntaryamira, also a Hutu, was killed in a plane crash with Rwandan military strongman Juvenal Habyarimana, in the Rwandan capital Kigali on April 6.

A civil unrest campaign was announced last week by groups who accuse the government of oppressing the Hutu majority in Burundi, after recent campaigns to confiscate illegal arms in areas mainly inhabited by Hutus.

ROME (AFP) — Three major problems Tuesday confronted Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi, struggling with internal strife in the shaky three-way coalition, a fiasco over his government's advertising campaign and the judicial inquiry into his business empire.

Probably the most serious for the long-term future of his government are the widening and increasingly public disagreements with the federalist Northern League, one of

the three members of the government coalition with Forza Italia and the neo-fascist National Alliance.

The head of the League, Umberto Bossi, has made a series of damning comments on Mr. Berlusconi, apparently prepared to sabotage the coalition despite his promise last week that "the League will not cause a crisis."

Mr. Bossi called on Mr. Berlusconi to resign, announced that he would present an independent

League economic programme and warned that within six months he would set up in opposition to the two other parties.

He also accused Mr. Berlusconi of wanting to help his Mondadori publishing group through a decree on authors' rights currently blocked by a Senate committee.

Mr. Berlusconi's spokesman said that Mr. Bossi had now "gone over the top," and wondered if it would not be more realistic for the

coalition "to leave this travelling companion to his own destiny."

Mr. Berlusconi was also faced with another climb-down shortly after being forced to repeal a decree to relax pre-trial detention when national broadcasting watchdog Giuseppe Santanillo ruled Tuesday that Italy's public television network RAI should not broadcast the ads which Mr. Berlusconi had worked on personally with his aides to promote his government's achievements.

One, two, three ... problems surround Berlusconi

ROME (AFP) — Three major problems Tuesday confronted Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi, struggling with internal strife in the shaky three-way coalition, a fiasco over his government's advertising campaign and the judicial inquiry into his business empire.

Probably the most serious for the long-term future of his government are the widening and increasingly public disagreements with the federalist Northern League, one of

the three members of the government coalition with Forza Italia and the neo-fascist National Alliance.

The head of the League, Umberto Bossi, has made a series of damning comments on Mr. Berlusconi, apparently prepared to sabotage the coalition despite his promise last week that "the League will not cause a crisis."

Mr. Bossi called on Mr. Berlusconi to resign, announced that he would present an independent

League economic programme and warned that within six months he would set up in opposition to the two other parties.

He also accused Mr. Berlusconi of wanting to help his Mondadori publishing group through a decree on authors' rights currently blocked by a Senate committee.

Mr. Berlusconi's spokesman said that Mr. Bossi had now "gone over the top," and wondered if it would not be more realistic for the

coalition "to leave this travelling companion to his own destiny."

Mr. Berlusconi was also faced with another climb-down shortly after being forced to repeal a decree to relax pre-trial detention when national broadcasting watchdog Giuseppe Santanillo ruled Tuesday that Italy's public television network RAI should not broadcast the ads which Mr. Berlusconi had worked on personally with his aides to promote his government's achievements.

Hopes fade for trapped Aussie miners after blasts

MOURA, Australia (AFP) — Hopes of rescuing 11 Australian coal miners faded fast Tuesday as two more explosions ripped through the mine in which they have been trapped since Sunday night.

Mine officials had earlier ruled out any prospect of a rescue Tuesday because of fires and high concentrations of explosive methane and carbon monoxide gases confirmed by tests through shafts drilled overnight.

"The situation for those

trapped below has deteriorated considerably," a Moura police spokesman said after the latest explosions.

The second blast at 12.25 p.m. and the third half an hour later sent up smoke from Moura Number 2 mine that could be seen in this Queensland coal town 10 kilometres away.

Local miners' union official Jim Lambie had minutes earlier told miners and residents a rescue would not be attempted Tuesday.

Relatives, friends and workmates of the trapped miners heard the grim news from Mr. Lambie and saw the smoke rising after an anguished 36-hour wait since Sunday's disaster.

Rescuers could not go down until tests of gas levels were completed, but that would take another 24 hours, Mr. Lambie said, adding: "The longer it goes, the slimmer the possibilities."

He said the mine was "still in an explosive situation."

Mine owners BHP Coal said after the third explosion there was "grave concern" for the safety of the trapped men.

But company spokesman David McDonald said it was not known where the explosion had occurred in the mine, closed since Sunday and now under threat of permanent closure following a series of disasters.

No rescue would now be attempted until the whole mine had stabilised, he said.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975
مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

For the wounds to heal

WHILE IT is a bit too early to measure the kind of lasting impact the recent steps between Jordan and Israel has had on the psyche of Jordanians, it is only fair to say that the reaction of the people has been mostly measured and relatively positive.

Television pictures, which showed a new cordiality, even friendliness, between our leaders clashed in our minds with a collective memory of an enemy who for decades associated itself with daily acts of brutality, aggression and terror against fellow Arabs only to produce confusion and disorientation. The Israeli officers who shook the hands of their Jordanian counterparts bore great likeness to Israeli soldiers who until recently were seen on television breaking the arms and legs of Palestinians and who are still raining bombs of death and destruction against our brothers in South Lebanon.

No one should expect this inevitable psychological struggle to change overnight. Time has always been an efficient healer. But time alone cannot heal the wounds Israel and its traditionally aggressive policies have inflicted upon the Arabs. Many of the wounds are still bleeding. They continue to do so in the West Bank, in Gaza as well as in Lebanon.

But the past can be forgotten, the wounds can be healed and the promise of a better future can triumph over the legacy of the sad, tormented and painful old days.

Such a triumph cannot be attained by mere words of goodwill and gestures aimed for newspaper headlines and television cameras, however. It can come about only when the promise of a better future is translated into a reality which people can feel and live, when the symbolism of handshakes leads to the release of a prisoner, the recovery of a lost home and the ending of the nightmare that soldiers force upon the lives of young kids on their way to school in Hebron.

Peace will prevail when Israel admits the injustices it has inflicted on the Palestinians and commits itself to refraining from repeating them in the future.

It will be long before all the psychological barriers between Arabs and Israelis come tumbling down. And they will not crumble all at the same time. They will fall down gradually. Meanwhile, Israel has to make sure that barriers which fall down will not be rebuilt, and will be replaced by new bridges that will bring the people of the region closer together. Israel can try to prove its real interest in a just and lasting peace. Only then will it reap understanding and willingness to forget and forgive.

The Jewish state won just about all its wars against the Arabs depending on a superior army and the support of allies far too powerful for the Arabs to defeat. With that superior army still there and the backing of the strong allies unwavering, Israel could win other wars against the Arabs.

But the battle for peace requires a different kind of preparedness. All the sophisticated weaponry of the world will not win it. To win peace with its neighbours, Israel has to ensure they feel they got their rightful share of the deal. For Israelis to be able to cross the river for a secure and quiet evening in Amman, Jordanians have to feel that their fellow Arabs in the West Bank can have a quiet evening in their own homes.

Israel can start by reciprocating the many gestures of goodwill that Jordan made in Aqaba and Washington. The images of the Red Sea city and the U.S. capital should not be overshadowed by new scenes of Israeli brutality if Israel wants the friendliness of its neighbours. Otherwise the positive images will only serve as a reminder of some promising moments of what might have been in a reality of despair.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily demanded that the problem of the Palestinian refugees be solved promptly and fairly if peace is to endure in the Middle East region. According to U.N. resolutions, the Palestinian refugees are entitled to either repatriation or compensation, said Mohammad Oudah. These resolutions were issued in the wake of the 1948 and the 1967 wars which saw Israel usurping Arab territory and the eviction of hundreds of thousands from their homes, said the writer. Repatriating or compensating the refugees means respecting their human rights which there can be no real and durable peace, he stressed. Therefore it goes without saying that Israel ought to embark on prompt measures to ensure the rights of the Palestinians and respect their inalienable rights according to U.N. resolutions so that the refugees can actually feel they are an integral part of the peace process and a vital element for securing a lasting and just peace.

MOHAMMAD KAWASH, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that Jordan has thus far made concrete contributions towards the peace process and the ceremony in Aqaba stands as the latest evidence of the Kingdom's genuine orientation towards the attainment of peace and security. It is now up to Israel to display serious endeavours by word and deed and to implement agreements reached with the Palestinians and the Jordanians, otherwise no normalisation of relations with the Arab side can materialise, said the writer. Genuine peace requires speedy steps to end the state of war between the two sides in practice rather than in theory, he continued. Defeat in war was a dangerous thing for the Arabs but any defeat or setback in the peace process can be more dangerous, said Mr. Kawash. The Arab-Israeli wars, added the writer, have drained resources and caused the death of many people on both sides, and the time has come for an end to bloodshed and misery and for the beginning of an era of progress and prosperity.

Mideast development to change rules of engagement between Arab and Jewish Americans

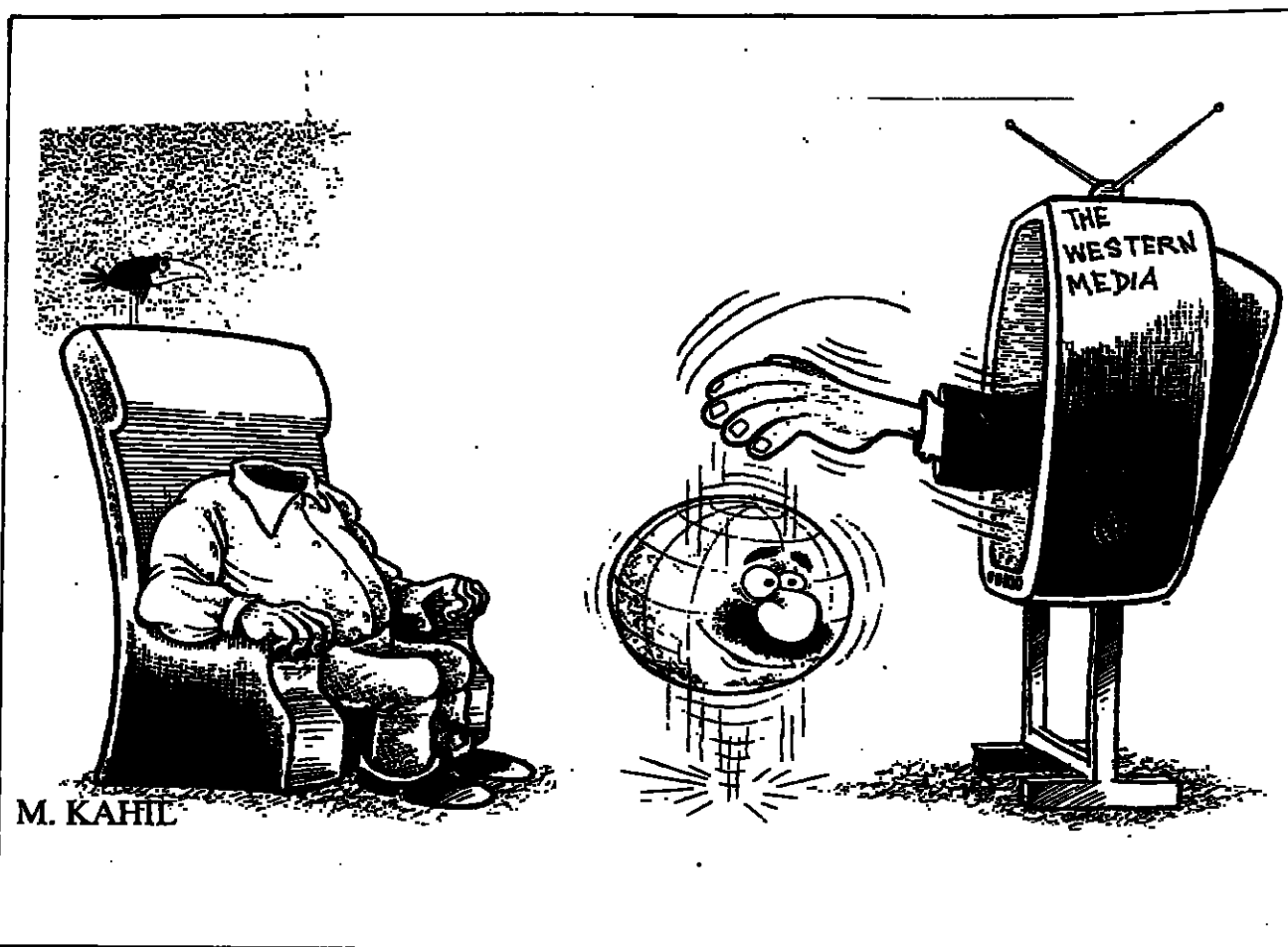
By Issa Batarseh

FOR MORE than three decades, thousands of Arab-Americans, including myself, have been active members in one or more Arab-American organisations and lobbying groups in the U.S., working for a pro-Arab agenda with the Palestinian cause being the paramount one. This resulted in years of direct conflict and continuous friction between Arab-American and Jewish-American organisations. In large part, the experiences of both Arab and Jewish communities (groups and individuals) that spanned nearly five decades has been painful and ugly and was marked by continuous accusations, name calling, and was unfortunately, bloody in few instances.

However, the intriguing events of the last few days in Washington, coupled by the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles signed last September, will no doubt result in major changes and shifts in the ways Arab- and Jewish-American organisations and communities deal with each other. In my opinion, it will have a positive and lasting effect in our lives in the United States, resulting in a major transformation from current stereotyped and distorted image of Arab-American, to a more positive and respectable image.

As an Arab-American, I am sick and tired of the perpetual state of heated debates, attacks and counter attacks between Arab- and Jewish-American organisations, on the one hand, and between Arab-Americans and the media for their betrayal of Arabs, on the other hand. It is the hope of many Arab-Americans that His Majesty King Hussein's declaration to the joint U.S. Congress and millions of Americans that "the state of war between Israel and Jordan is over", will be met by similar declaration by Jewish and pro-Israeli groups that stereotyping, degrading and hatred crimes against Arabs and Arab-Americans will soon be put to an end. For the present time, the historic events in Washington will have major impact on their relation with the Jewish-Americans.

Arab-Americans who immigrated to the U.S. in the beginning of this century recall vividly how welcome, respected and proud they felt when fellow Americans knew their Middle East roots... from the Holy Land and the River of Jordan. Americans were very curious to know more about the Arabs and their culture, food, music and religion. In the words of a 70-year old



Arab-American friend "indeed it was a very positive and undistorted image that made all my family proud to have their roots in the Arab World." Unfortunately, this image was no longer the same after the U.N. partition of Palestine and the creation of Israel in 1948, followed by the 1956 and 1967 wars between the Arabs and Israelis. Moreover, with strong Israeli lobbying groups such as the American-Israeli Political Action Committee (AIPAC) and many others, coupled with their strong control of the electronic and print media, serious and organised efforts were under way to distort the Arab image and discredit the Arabs' past cultural and scientific contributions, resulting in more than three decades of Arab bashing, stereotyping and discrimination. As a result of this unfair and bias treatment of Arab-Americans, and the need to articulate the Arab point of view, several Arab-American grass-roots organisations were founded in the last 25 years. To help the reader understand the role played by these organisations, I would like to give brief background on three major Arab-American organisations in the U.S. today. The Arab-American Institute (AAI) was established in 1983 by James Zogby. AAI focuses on the empowerment of Arab-Americans through sponsoring voting drives and encourage Arab-Americans to run for office. Regardless of their current missions, these organisations and many other small ones must make major shifts and serious refocusing in their agendas and missions in the wake of a new relation between the Arabs and Israel.

I believe the Washington Declaration between Jordan and Israel will make impact on the Arab American

communities on several fronts:

The image of Arab-Americans will no longer be the negative one we are all accustomed to. It is my hope and anticipation that the organised efforts to dehumanise Arabs and Muslims, trivialise the importance of their contribution to civilisation, and the constant invention of misconceptions about Arabs will cease. The cynical organised campaign of Arab bashing by the Jewish communities and the pro-Israeli groups must come to an end. Likewise, Arab counter attacks and accusations must also come to an end. It is about time to project the real image of Arabs and Muslims to the American people, their culture, values and contribution to civilisation, totally unpoliticised and with respect.

The new Arab-American organisation agendas must redirect our energy, time resources to address more important and pressing issues that include: actively promoting understanding between the Arab and American cultures; becoming more involved in the political process at the local, state and national levels to have the opportunity to make difference; and seeking a real and cohesive collaboration plans between the Arab- and Jewish-American organisations.

I strongly believe that we, as Arab-American organisations or as individuals, have a lot to learn from the years of cumula-

tive experiences of the Jews. Hence, it is about time to openly declare our willingness to emulate the Jews when it comes to their methods of fund raising, organisation, networking and public relations. Arabs and Jews can work together on a common agenda to fight discrimination, anti-Semitism and racism.

The Arab- and Jewish communities have the potential to play a very important role in the economic development of the Middle East, an extremely important component for political stability and lasting peace. Contacts among their business communities should start immediately to establish avenues and build bridges for mutual collaboration in the business communities and start investing in the West Bank and in the Middle East. Furthermore, direct and open contacts between Arab- and Jewish-American professionals in all sectors is inevitable and will produce strong and powerful ties between professionals, especially in the science, economics and technology fields. Such collaborations will be of mutual benefits to both sides.

Another important issue that must be addressed by both Arab and Jewish communities is the issue of Muslim-Christian-Jewish relation. There is desperate need to begin a national dialogue between religious groups inside and outside the U.S. in order to help create an atmosphere of

understanding and tolerance among these three universal faiths that is based on respect and acceptance of one another's faith. After all, the most important thing in life is what we hold in common not what we hold separately.

Most of Arabs and Jews in the U.S. are understandably mistrustful to each other, making the transformation into new relation based on trust and respect extremely difficult and challenging one.

It is my hope and expectation that once a full peace is reached between Israel and the Arab states, interest in Arab culture and people will be renewed, and tourism in the Middle East will flourish once again. As Arab-Americans, it is our duty to shoulder the responsibility to help our fellow citizens to understand our culture and to come to know our significant contribution to civilisation. This is very important since the recent past has been "unfair" and "unjust" to Arab-American in particular, and to Arabs in general. Jordanian- and Arab-Americans must take advantage of recent events in Washington. His Majesty's speech to the joint Congress session has wiped years of stereotyping and defamations of Arabs and Arab-Americans, that a genius public relation expert would not have achieved.

It would be naive to suggest that even a comprehensive and completed peace agreement between Arab states and Israel will put to end such stereotyping and betrayal. But for sure, from now and on the abnormal and the impossible will become normal and possible when it comes to the relation between Arab- and Jewish-Americans. For one, I welcome this change and I look forward for more positive, constructive and friendly dialogue and collaboration and co-operation between the two Semite peoples.

The bottom line from these developments is simple: Arab- and Jewish-Americans must seize this unprecedented opportunity for peace to work together under one coalition for a pro-Israeli-Arab agenda in the U.S. to overcome psychological barriers and to bring about a genuine change in attitudes, build trust and achieve true and stable Middle-East peace; and help Americans understand our two great civilisations.

The writer is assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering at the University of Central Florida. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

Realism triumphs over theatrics in addresses to Congress

By Pascal B. Karny

THE SPEECHES of His Majesty King Hussein and of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin delivered before the joint session of U.S. Congress on July 26 led the audience to observe the sharp contrast between the two speeches.

The King's speech was poised, sedate, dignified and realistic. It inspired hope for the future in achieving peace not only between Jordan and Israel but also in the whole Arab region. It was a serious and sincere speech auguring a new dawn for the Arab people without fear of a new war.

The King referred to the sufferings of the Arab peoples and their martyrs without waiting but with courage and optimism for the future. The occasion was solemn and the King's speech was appropriate and commensurate with this occasion.

It is not necessary to go through the details of the King's speech as it has been extensively publicised in different languages to the world at large. Any person who heard or read the King's speech will find in it the above-mentioned characteristics. By contrast, in Mr. Rabin's speech was replete with lamentation and description of the sacrifices endured by Israel since its

inception as if the Israelis and the Jews alone had martyrs and victims. Not only that, Mr. Rabin transformed the Congress platform into a sort of a theatre. Indeed he brought with him some of the Israelis who had suffered as a result of the Israeli-Arab wars and even mentioned their names as if they were to take part in some Shakespearean tragic play. He then put the Jewish yarmulke on his head and read some passages from a bible prophet. Did Mr. Rabin think that he was before a synagogue or before the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem?

This theatrical scenario was certainly well prepared in advance. Mr. Rabin's theatrics were surely prepared on purpose in order to make the Congress and world public opinion believe that the Israelis were the victims and the Arabs were the aggressors during the Israeli-Arab wars. To put the record straight, let us review cursorily and somewhat chronologically some of the events and wars of the past 50 years or so and which occurred between Israel and the Jews of Israel on the one hand and the Arabs on the other. We can then conclude who were the victims and who are the aggressors or oppressors.

It was the Jews of Israel about 100 victims, most of whom were Palestinian Arabs? Did not the Jews of Israel perpetrate Deir Yassin massacre on April 9 1948? Did not the Israeli army dynamite on Oct. 14, 1953 dozens of houses in Qibya village on the heads of the sleeping inhabitants? Did not the Israeli army kill in cold blood some of villagers of Kafr Qassim village in Israel itself on Oct. 29, 1956 while the villagers were returning from their work not being aware of the

curfew imposed on the village? Did not the Israeli army, while it was driving bulldozers through Maghribi Quarter in Jerusalem in 1967, destroy whole Palestinian villages off the face of the Earth. The first of those villages were Beit Nuba, Imwas and Yalu whose innumerable 10,000 inhabitants were scattered to the four winds. And who started the 1967 war against Egypt, Jordan and Syria.

Now Israelis admit that it was Israel which had initiated that war. Even that unlamented Begin himself, the arch enemy of the Arabs and Palestinians and the hero of King David Hotel and Deir Yassin massacres, admitted later that the Israeli government was certain that the late Jamal Abdul Nasser did not intend to attack Israel in June 1967 but that Israel attacked first.

The 1973 war, which was launched by Egypt, Syria and Jordan, was quintessentially a war of liberation. They did not attack Israel itself but waged the war to

liberate Sinai, the Golan Heights, the West Bank and Gaza Strip territories which were under Israeli occupation, some of which are still under its unlawful occupation. On Sept. 16, 1982, Sabra and Shatila massacres were perpetrated by the Lebanese Falangists with the connivance and coordination of the Israeli army commanders who were then besieging Beirut. Lastly, the Palestinian intifada, which started in December 1987, was a resistance against Israeli occupation of

Israel but also in the whole Arab region. It was a serious and sincere speech auguring a new dawn for the Arab people without fear of a new war."

Palestinian territory. Resistance to an occupier is a universally recognised principle of international law. Did not the Israeli forces on the recommendation of Mr. Rabin himself (who was then minister of defence) kill or break the bones of thousands of Palestinians who resisted and are still resisting Israeli occupation of the West Bank, including Jerusalem? It must be admitted that the Arab martyrs who were killed by the Israelis were thousand-

fold more than those Israelis who died at the hands of the Arabs.

One would have thought that Mr. Rabin would not resort to such theatrical performances on a such solemn occasion before the Congress which no doubt had heard ad nauseam the lamentations of the Jewish people during the past 50 years and had always come to the help of Israel. But the American Congress has hardly ever lent a sympathetic ear to the Palestinian tragedy as a result of which the Palestinians were dispersed to the four corners of Earth. On the contrary, we have been witnessing the Congress and the Western states "heaping praise and reward on the oppressors of the Palestinian people and blame and penalty on the victims", to paraphrase Professor Edward Said in his book "The Politics of Dispossession". The status of the Palestinian refugees is still a glaring evidence of the Palestinian tragedy and till today Palestinians and Arabs are suffering from Israeli occupation of Arab lands. And Israel is still imposing hardship and misery on the Palestinian people and is still pursuing the politics of dispossession in East Jerusalem, which forms an integral part of the occupied Palestinian territory.

Survey teams to help demarcate border

(Continued from page 1)

Dr. Tarawneh referred to the signing of the Washington Declaration and said: "History since then has been in the making."

"Each day qualifies to be a separate chapter in the Middle East ...," he said.

"The events of the past two days, two weeks, are so vivid in our memories, from the trilateral committee meeting we have hosted on our shore of the Dead Sea, to the Washington Declaration, to the safe return of His Majesty King Hussein to Amman flying over the Holy City and the Israeli air space, and to the spectacular events of yesterday which we all were very lucky to witness, and finally to the meeting of today marking the first of several that we will hold on Israeli soil, with equal frequency of similar meetings on Jordanian soil."

Mr. Rubenstein said: "We welcome you all for the first time in our negotiations in Israel. We reciprocate now after having been hosted graciously by the Jordanian government on the other side of the Dead Sea and then yesterday in the very historic event of the meetings in Aqaba."

On behalf of my government I would like to thank the Jordanian Government, His Majesty, His Royal Highness, for the hospitality and the atmosphere for the good

beginning in our new era of relationship and we are all moved by what happened yesterday. We look forward for continued work together and towards peace.

Ladies and gentlemen, The spirit of the Washington Declaration in the meetings of yesterday is with us today as we resume the bilateral negotiations, the echoes of the unforgettable event where His Majesty King Hussein was joined by Prime Minister Rabin in the presence of President Clinton in announcing the termination of the state of belligerence and war between Israel and Jordan. These echoes are still with us today.

So was the sound of the winds of the plane, of His Majesty's plane crossing the sky of Israel, and we had an opportunity to talk just a minute later, Tarawneh and myself, as I called him from Tel Aviv from my car. In fact when I was watching the plane and listening to the radio and calling Dr. Tarawneh and telling him that I just saw the plane.

Then the voices of the direct telephone links inaugurated two days ago between the president of Israel and His Majesty the King of Jordan, and of course we were all encouraged by the touching moments of yesterday in the crossing point in Aqaba.

So the noise of the sweeping of mines which have divided us as the prime minister mentioned yesterday symbolises the end of the state of war. These were symbols that have gone in the path of peace between the two countries.

Soon, God willing, we hope to open a second border crossing in the north as announced in the Washington Declaration after its exact location has been agreed.

Dr. Tarawneh, ladies and gentlemen,

Even during hours of joy we should not forget His Highness the Crown Prince who has said yesterday that we have not reached yet the full desired tranquility. Even during these very days, dark and extreme forces in our neighbourhood and the region outside continue to hamper the peace efforts.

We mourn in our countries our victims but will not stop peace efforts.

Our delegations will continue this and next week the negotiations on matters of substance on peace, security, boundaries, economy, environment, energy, civil aviation, tourism and the fight against crime and drugs.

We believe that a just peace can and will be reached between us in its fullest sense and we will honour every result of the negotiations in all fields.



A Red Cross worker sits on bags of corn delivered by the United States before distribution to thousands of Rwandan refugees in a camp north of Goma, Zaire (AFP photo)

Israelis show little shift in negotiating tactic

(Continued from page 1)

Washington by showing commitment to the Middle East peace process which has favoured status in U.S. foreign policy."

But although Jordanian negotiators have maintained a positive tone towards their negotiations with Israel on issues of boundaries and water rights, privately they concede that there has not been any serious change in Israel's negotiating tactic.

Chief Israeli negotiator Elyakim Rubenstein told the Jordan Times Tuesday that his country was serious about reaching a "solution which will be acceptable to both sides and which is both just and fair."

But despite his apparent tone of commitment to working towards an agreement with Jordan with a serious intention of reaching a solution, Mr. Rubenstein failed to show the same positive tone on the problem of boundaries.

Jordanian sources had told the Jordan Times that Jordan had asked Israeli negotiators to show goodwill on the boundaries issue by returning to the boundaries of their occupation of 1967. Accord-

ing to the sources, during the years since 1967, Israel had at times moved into Jordanian territories on "security" grounds.

"In some areas they went as much as eight kilometres inside Jordanian territory and never moved back to the original border line," one Jordanian negotiator explained.

"What we are asking is that even while a special joint Jordanian-Israeli committee was working on delimitation and demarcation of the mandate line, Israel should show goodwill by withdrawing from the territories it had taken since 1967," the negotiator added.

But Israeli negotiators continue to resist the Jordanian request maintaining that the "same principle" will have to apply to all territories occupied by Israel whether even if they were occupied after 1967.

Mr. Rubenstein told the Jordan Times that "the sub-commission (on the boundaries and territories) has to see what the views of both sides are, and where the claims are," relegating the Jordanian request to ongoing

negotiations over the delineation of mandate lines.

Asked whether Israel was willing to treat the territories occupied since 1967 in a separate context from that applied to the demarcation of the mandate line, Mr. Rubenstein said: "The same principle applies to the whole boundary."

Israel occupied Jordanian territory both in 1948 and at different times since the 1967 war. Most of the territory occupied in Wadi Araba was taken in 1948 but territories around the Dead Sea were seized in 1967.

A senior Jordanian negotiator told the Jordan Times that the Kingdom would have been encouraged by movement by Israel on the post-1967 territories. "It would have given the talks a substantive momentum," the negotiator said.

Publicly, both Jordanian and Israeli negotiators are pushing the journalists away from the controversial items of their negotiations and concentrating on maintaining the new momentum that has been injected into the relations between Jordan and Israel.

Syria, Israel weighing price

(Continued from page 1)

"there was less testing between the parties and more down-to-earth discussion."

He had talks with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and in Damascus with Mr. Assad and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharara.

"I find that in this conversation there was a very conscious searching on the

part of both of them (Israelis and Syrians) as to needs of the other party. They were not utterly self-absorbed, but they were rather thinking about what the needs of the other party were and what might be done to achieve them," he said.

Mr. Rabin has signaled Syria he would give up at least some of the Golan Heights and recall the 13,000 Israeli Jews who moved into the 24 kilometre-wide buffer zone after Israel seized it in

1967. He told reporters Monday that "Syria wants peace — the problem is the price, the timing, the timetable."

But Mr. Rabin also said the gap between the Israeli and Syrian positions was "still deep and broad."

Mr. Assad wants Israel to relinquish all the territory. Mr. Rabin refuses to take that step without a clear idea of the kind of peace Syria would extend to Israel in return.

Iraqi entry to peace process in the cards

(Continued from page 12)

mentioned Iraq at the opening in Moscow — one was Jordan who spoke of humanitarian considerations and one was Israel who said there can be no arms talks without Iraq at the table," said the official.

"Israeli officials expanded on the arms talks and began to include water," said the official. But now Iraqi officials are saying that new elements are being introduced into the equation.

"Now there are suggestions that Iraq take some of the Palestinian refugees from Lebanon and settle them permanently in Iraq," said the official.

While Jordanian and foreign sources close to the multilateral refugee talks say they know "nothing of this," Iraqi sources say that the possibility of resettling Palestinian refugees in Iraq is "being floated."

Less than 50,000 Palestinians lived and settled in Iraq since 1948. Most of these were given Iraqi nationality. Experts say that because most Palestinians are either Sunni Muslims or Christians, their presence in Iraq is favourable for the traditional Sun-

ni leadership of the country.

In Lebanon the largely Muslim Palestinian population would further strain the delicate balance between religious groups and sects.

"They — the U.S. and Israel — want at least some of the Palestinians in Lebanon to be settled in Iraq because it is easier. Iraq is a big country that does not have a potential demographic crisis. They think that even if they sent all 300,000 Palestinians from Lebanon to Iraq they would be easily absorbed. Iraq is after all a country of 18 million," said the official.

While Iraq gave signs that it was willing to enter the peace process with Israel as far back as 1992 (through statements to the press and according to some sources secret talks in Eastern Europe) it has not officially done so.

Some Iraq observers believe that Iraq is or will be asked to sanction the peace negotiations prior to any opening of talks "to lose face with the Arabs — totally and finally."

"For many in the Arab World Iraq is the last stand

of resistance to American and Israeli domination and influence. When Iraq bows the war is over," said a Jordanian Baathist recently. "They (the West) will try to make Iraq apologise to the Israelis or something like that — a public apology like the Germans made to the Jews — this will be the final humiliation for the Iraqis which the Israelis seek."

Iraqi officials deny that "things have deteriorated so far," but they are wary of the continuing pressure imposed by the U.S. on Iraq. "The U.S. still gives very conflicting signs to Iraq," said the Iraqi official.

On Aug. 5 U.S. President Clinton, addressing Congress on Iraqi compliance with Gulf war and U.N. ceasefire terms, accused Iraq of sponsoring acts of "terror" against U.N. and humanitarian workers.

"Reliable reports have indicated that the government of Iraq is offering reward money for terrorist acts against the U.N. and humanitarian relief workers in Iraq." Because of such conduct, said Mr. Clinton, the U.S. intended to continue supporting sanctions.

'Tears are not enough'

Images of Rwanda—human kindness against hell

By Guy Dinmore
Reuters

GOMA, Zaire — Tears poured down the face of a British doctor as she stood helplessly in her tent littered with dead and dying cholera victims. The corpses of 200 more lay scattered outside.

Images of Rwanda are dominated by such scenes of human kindness completely overwhelmed by the hell that descended on the Zairean town of Goma with the flight of one million refugees escaping civil war.

But as the T-shirt of a Rwandan boy still alive among the bodies of children trampled to death in a border stampede so eloquently put it: "tears are not enough."

We journalists cried as we found nearby a baby girl sleeping peacefully snuggled against her mother, not knowing she had bled to death overnight from wounds inflicted by a mortar bomb.

Zairean soldiers gave us two more babies they had discovered among the carnage so with no aid workers

or doctors in sight we picked them up to safety.

Suddenly, like the piper of Hamelin, we found ourselves leading a procession of wounded children — a girl with a hole gouged out of her arm, a boy whose arm had been severed, an infant with her cheek blown open.

French military nurses named our baby girl Turquoise. Christened like many others after the humanitarian operation 'Turquoise' launched by France in Rwanda in June.

Medics operated on the boy but he died. A Zairean doctor surrounded by cholera victims — all Hutus whose fellow tribespeople had slaughtered the Tutsi minority in a campaign of genocide — threw his hands into the sky, laughed in hysterical despair and shouted: "It's God's tribunal."

Refugees tried to preserve their human dignity in squalid, disease-ridden camps with no food, water or latrines.

But broken down by the weight of their suffering they lost the emotional reserves needed to help each

other. Occasionally men fought with machetes and knives over scarce supplies of food and plastic sheeting.

Goma's first mass grave was a neat row of bodies, some bearing crosses made out of twigs. As the cholera epidemic raged on bodies were simply dumped by bulldozers and trucks in a tangled heap.

The horrors of war seemed at times strangely incongruous amid the beauty of African landscapes.

On the shores of Lake Kivu, dominated by a semicircle of volcanoes to the north, sturdy Zairean porters ran back and forth with sacks of coffee on their backs.

But nearby behind the barbed wire of Kituku refugee camp, Tutsi men and women showed the bandaged stumps of their arms, legs and fingers which had been hacked off by Hutu militia indoctrinated by a stereotyped image of the Tutsis as an aristocratic slim, long-limbed race.

Some aid workers became paralysed by the horror and enormity of the

catastrophe, and the bureaucratic inertia of U.N. agencies was exposed. It took eight days from the start of the mass exodus for the first grain of U.N. food to be distributed.

One U.N. official broke down in tears after a news conference, the last straw being angry journalists who had lost control of their own emotions.

Another senior U.N. official simply lied to cover up his organisation's inadequate response to the crisis.

Truth, like human dignity, is always a casualty of war and its aftermath.

Among the hordes of refugees are members of the former Hutu government and militia leaders now wanted for war crimes by the new government installed in the capital Kigali by the Tutsi-dominated Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF).

Their propaganda in exile is spread through the terror of the machete and broadcasts of the mobile radio Mille Collines which was still operating until a while ago.

Standing truth on its

head, Hutu refugees would repeatedly argue that the Tutsis had lists of all Hutu intellectuals to be killed and that if Hutus had killed some Tutsis it was in self-defence to pre-empt this planned slaughter.

"The Tutsis hold up a letter and say what is this? If you reply 'it's an o' then they kill you," said one refugee, a well-educated woman who returned from the United States to Rwanda on April 6, the day President Juvenal Habyarimana was killed in mysterious circumstances and the bloodshed began.

"The Tutsis tear open the stomachs of pregnant women," another refugee said, but as reporters and U.N. officials had discovered first-hand it was Hutu militia who had carried out such barbarism in the early days of the massacres.

One refugee in the eastern Zairean town of Bukavu tried to explain the mass bloodbath but gave up, saying:

"Rwanda is so overpopulated. We killed so many people but there are still millions."

Communist aura hangs over Romanian town

By Peter Humphrey
Reuters

GALATI, Romania — Towering chimneys spew red, yellow and purple clouds of polluted air across the battered derricks and drab apartment blocks of Galati.

Grubby children play in the fall-out and the grey haze.

Water runs brown from the bathtubs in this Danube steel town, and the food in its restaurants is little better than the gruel of a poorhouse in a Charles Dickens novel.

Unemployed youths loiter aimlessly on the streets. Many Romanians consider Galati the end of the world, a basket-case of socialism gone crazy. The aura is still there.

The riverside city, 250 km east of Bucharest, was once a thriving and pretty grain trading centre, straddling the junction of the rivers Danube, Siret and Prut. It is now a sprawling and choking mess of Stalinist over-industrialisation.

Local government boss Nicolae Beuran and Galati (pronounced Galas) Mayor Eugen Durbaca don't think it's so bad.

But, considering they are members of the former Communist party elite who built the area's heavy indus-

try and managed to hang on to power after the 1989 revolution, that is not surprising.

County prefect Beuran, an ally of President Ion Iliescu, was number two in Galati county before Romania's Communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu was ousted and executed in 1989.

In a pattern mirrored across Romania, Mr. Beuran became number one and his predecessor went into business in the county, which is twinned with England's Lancashire, China's Hubei and the Port of Piraeus in Greece.

Mr. Beuran lyrically reeled off data about the achievements of his area in a style reminiscent of Communist bureaucrats, how its development was favoured by the abundance of water, and about its glowing potential as a foreign investment location.

Empty bookshelves line his office wall. Tomes on market economics have not yet replaced Ceausescu's collected works.

"About 230,000 hectares of land have been privatised from a total area of 300,000," he says. But farmers were then pressed into new "farming associations" on 220,000 hectares, which the opposition consider a covert new form of collecti-

vision.

"The land is all being worked, there are surpluses, the Sidex steel plant is rebounding. All is well," says Mr. Durbaca.

Mr. Durbaca was head of a state-owned shipping company in Communist times, a highly-privileged job. His tenure of mayor has been dogged by allegations in the local media of corruption, including mixing his private business with his official position.

outside town. There is none of the freedom to protest tolerated in most other cities.

"We have no real politics in Galati. Those who could be politicians are still only spectators," said Radu Macovei, editor of the local Viata Libera (Free Life) newspaper. "It's difficult to create a real party here," he said.

Mr. Durbaca dismissed the nickname which opposition media in Bucharest

regressed immediately after 1989 because the whole system was changing, and relations with trade partners stagnated, but we've overcome this and industry in Galati is recovering, for example the steel plant," he said.

So having fended off the challenge which the opposition posed after the 1989 anti-Communist revolution, the local elite appear to be rebuilding their power.

Unlike elsewhere in Romania, Galati trade unions are subservient to the establishment and there have been no serious strikes or disputes here. "Iliescu came here and promised to keep paying off the workers, to keep the steel mills going. He said if you keep quiet, we'll take care of you," said a well-informed resident.

Union bosses at Sidex were extremely cagey. In a gesture unusual for union leaders anywhere, they refused to reveal average wages paid by the plant.

"This is because they have been told to keep their mouths shut about getting more than other sectors of the population, that's part of the deal," said the local resident.

"We cannot tell you how much we earn. It's secret," Sidex Union leader Viorel Belic told Reuters.

He was elected mayor in the post-revolution elections on the ticket of Mr. Iliescu's left-wing party of ex-Communists, now named the Party of Social Democracy (PSD), but later shifted to its agrarian satellite party. Now his allegiance is unclear.

"The PSD is in power here. But elections are dominated by the personalities rather than parties," said Mr. Durbaca. Demonstrations are banned in the city centre and only allowed in a stadium

have given his town — the "Red City". "The only red here is the Coca-Cola signs. The reputation of a Communist red city came from media speculation," he told Reuters.

He said the city now had 11,800 private companies, that 96 per cent of private land deeds had been distributed to peasants here under Romania's land reform, and that foreign investors were taking an interest in a newly designated free trade zone.

"The economy of Galati

China pledges no more tax breaks for state enterprises

[illegible]

WILD CAT
RESTAURANT

Pizza
Pasta
Exotic Sandwiches
& Hamburg

• Seated
• Take-A-way
• Home Delivery

Shawnee - Tel. 689670

Greece burn hosts Canada at World Basketball Championships

TORONTO (AFP) — Greece took one of their greatest victories late Monday, shrugging off their coach's resignation to delight a partisan crowd by beating the host nation at the World Basketball Championships.

Fanis Christodoulou scored 26 points, pulled down 10 rebounds and recovered a key turnover in the final seconds to spark Greece past Canada 74-71 in a quarterfinal round-robin game.

Greek coach Efthimis Kioumourtzoglou quit just before the tournament began in a feud with players. Assistant Makis Dedrinos has guided the club since.

"Regardless of the ups and downs before, we managed to achieve one of our greatest victories," Dedrinos said. "After the unfortunate incident, we put our hearts together and focused on our goals."

"I think he is celebrating along with us," Dedrinos said. "I'm only following his path. This is the team he selected. His blessings and best wishes will be with us the rest of the tournament."

Greece took a major step to the medal round by beating Canada, because both were expected to beat China but lost to Croatia in Group II games later this week. Croatia routed China 105-73 in the other game here.

Quarterfinal action in the other group was due to begin late Tuesday with Russia playing Puerto Rico and Australia facing the U.S. Dream Team II.

Canada coach Ken Shields feared strong support from Toronto's Greek community



Stojan Vrankovic of Croatia sticks the ball into the side of the basket on a slam dunk as Tao Shan of China tries to block it during the second half of their World Basketball Championship at Maple Leaf Garden in Toronto Monday. Croatia beat China 105-73 (AFP photo)

would give his foes the home crowd advantage and he was right. Greek flags outnumbered those of the hosts by 20-to-1 among the crowd of 11,083, with the loudest cheers going to Greece. The atmosphere was more like

Athens than Canada's largest city.

"I guess they are proud of their heritage and they were cheering for their country," Shields said.

Rick Fox made consecutive

3-point shots to pull Canada within 72-71 with 51 seconds to play. Martin Keane blocked a shot by Efthimis Bakatsias in the final minute, but fell stumbling and lost the ball to Christodoulou, setting up a final dunk by Fassoulas with six seconds to play.

Kory Hallas scored 20 to lead Canada. Fox added 17. Panagiotis Fassoulas added 18 points and eight rebounds for Greece.

Dino Rajda scored 23 points, all in the first half, while Arjan Komazec added 22 points in Croatia's triumph. China trailed 61-41 at half-time.

"We expected much stronger resistance," Croatia's Lospir Vrankovic said. "Maybe they didn't have a good day as a team. We were excellent."

Toni Kukoc had 15 assists, two more than the Chinese team, and 13 points. Hu Weidong sank 9-of-14 3-point shots to finish with 31 points, but his impressive long-range shooting was not enough to keep China in the game.

"Shooting is only one part of the game. You must have the other parts," Croatia coach Guiseppe Gierya said.

Dream Team II centre Shaquille O'Neal took a front-row seat beneath a basket for both games. He received a prime view of Rajda and Kukoc dunking and jamming home shots past the outmanned Chinese. But Komazec said Shaq has not seen the best of Croatia.

"I didn't think China could stay with us," said Komazec, whose team faces Canada Wednesday. "Now I think the real games come and we will show our quality."

Baseball strike looks certain

NEW YORK (AFP) — A strike looks set to start Friday after lawyers acting for baseball players and owners failed to reach an agreement on capping salaries.

If the strike goes ahead, it will be the eighth stoppage in 22 years. Owners asked for a salary cap in 1985 and 1990 but then withdrew after union opposition.

Speaking for the management, negotiator Richard Ravitch said: "I don't want to spark any unrealistic optimism, but when you're in a situation like this, I wouldn't dare predict what's going to happen between now and Friday."

"That doesn't mean I think the fairy godmother will descend with a solution."

Fehr said he hoped to convince management to make a proposal similar to the collective bargaining arrangements that have existed since 1976.

On a possible stoppage, Ravitch said: "Do I think 800 baseball players are rigid ideologically about this? I'm not so sure."

"This doesn't have the air of a dispute that's going to settle," Fehr said. "This has the air of a dispute the owners are intent on forcing. They've expected a strike since long before they put their proposal on the table."

He said the only sign of hope was that executive council chairman Bud Selig backed off the claim that 19 teams would lose money this year, saying the minimum number was 12-to-14.

Jordi Cruyff hoping to follow the mythical steps of Johan

MADRID, Spain (AP) — Celebrating his 20-year relationship with Spanish champion FC Barcelona last year, coach and soccer ace Johan Cruyff said his one dream then was for his son Jordi to play on the club's first team.

Less than a year later, 20-year-old Jordi appears on the threshold of bringing that dream true. Six goals in two games made him Barcelona's top scorer on its recent pre-season tour of his native Netherlands.

"Cruyff and Cruyff. The new tandem" said the front-page headline of the Barcelona-based El Periodico while the rest of Spain's newspapers ran laudatory reports on the budding midfielder.

Many observers even noted that the success of Jordi alongside new Romanian signing Gheorghe Hagi had made Johan Cruyff and his club forget their bitter feelings over the erratic ways of Brazilian ace Romario who has failed to return to Barcelona since his team won the World Cup.

Jordi teamed up with Hagi to score three times in Barcelona's 5-5 draw against Groningen and netted another treble in the 4-1 win over De Graafschap last week.

But the young Cruyff has been careful not to let the glory zoom to his head.

"We mustn't exaggerate, I've demonstrated that I know something, but now I want to be left alone to show I can do more," he said.

But he frequent whistles and boos with which the young Dutchman was greeted everytime he got the ball demonstrated clearly how

tough it is being the son of one of Europe's most talented footballers and successful coaches.

"The surname has weighed heavily," the long blond-haired player said in a recent interview. "Especially at the beginning... Whenever I got onto the pitch, people would say 'look that's Cruyff's son, the teacher's pet.'"

On the one hand, Dutch fans often chide him for playing in Spain while Spaniards get their digs in because he's the coach's son.

Born in Amsterdam, Jordi began following in his father's mythical footsteps by playing in the juvenile teams of that city's famed Ajax club, then coached by his father. But when Cruyff senior decided to return as coach to his former club Barcelona, Jordi went too.

In six years Jordi has risen steadily through the ranks to become a permanent starter for Barcelona 'B'. But his recent performance for the first team in the friendly games indicates it won't be long till he's a permanent starter there, too.

Barcelona confirmed its confidence in the young star last year by signing him for four years in his first professional contract. "I wasn't going to let him get away,"

club chairman Josep Lluís Nunez said at the time.

On the pitch he's proved to have inherited at least some of the exquisite technical footwork and imaginative midfield passing of the elder Cruyff who has all the major club trophies both as a player and a coach.

The young Cruyff's one apparent weakness is his slight build, which has made him easy prey for aggressive defenders.

Club officials say Jordi, who measures 1.84 metres and weighs just 70 kilograms, needs to be beefed up and have placed him on a special diet.

His father, although obviously jubilant as his son's progress, is cautious about his future.

"I'm not going to put him out in front of 100,000 spectators for them to tear him apart because he's not prepared," Johan Cruyff told El Periodico.

The son, too, is prepared to be patient and let his father call the shots.

"I understand he has a difficult task with me," he said. "While he may be proud of me as a player, I think he has to hide it a little because of the others. I think he knows how to differentiate between son and player."

Simpson gets smaller cell, heads to court

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Former football great O.J. Simpson has been moved to a smaller jail cell as his attorneys try to make sure they have all the prosecution's evidence.

Lead defence attorney Robert Shapiro wanted to resolve his motions seeking access to telephone records and the backgrounds of potential witnesses at a hearing set for late Tuesday.

Also before superior court judge Lance Ito were a pair of media motions involving coverage of the trial, and two motions that were sealed and their contents undisclosed.

The defence opposes a bid by several news organisations to see photographs of the murder scene and sealed transcripts of in-chambers conferences between the judge and lawyers. Defence attorneys said disclosing the discussions could "shatter the private lives of prospective witnesses and third parties... currently unknown to the press."

In the second motion, a group of broadcast news organisations has petitioned the judge to bar a defence lawyer from talking with print reporters in the courtroom unless cameras and

microphones monitor the conversations.

Simpson is charged with murder in the June 12 knife killings of his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman. Prosecutors have not yet decided whether to seek the death penalty. The trial is to begin Sept. 19.

Other developments Monday:

Authorities disclosed that Simpson was moved Friday from a cell on the second floor of the Los Angeles county jail to the ground floor of the same section in order to save overtime costs.

Defendants in the special section reserved for high-profile defendants are allowed no contact with each other and can't leave their cells, deputy Matthew Rodriguez said.

"Mr. Simpson is being housed within one cell on a row of seven cells. Each of the other cells is vacant," Rodriguez said.

"O.J. Simpson continues to receive his meals in his cell and he is periodically allowed to exercise alone on a stationary bicycle. A public telephone is available to him during his exercise periods."

Reyna signs for Leverkusen

CHICAGO, Illinois (AFP) — America's Claudio Reyna signed a one-year contract with Bundesliga contenders Bayer Leverkusen, the U.S. Football Federation announced (USF) Monday.

The 21-year-old midfielder was selected for the USA in this year's World Cup, but a hamstring injury just before the event kept him sidelined.

"This is very exciting for me to have a chance to play in the Bundesliga. This is a great opportunity to play

with and against some of the top players in the world," said Reyna, who will join U.S. teammate Thomas Dooley at Leverkusen.

However, Reyna was looking to return to football in the USA once it had formed a professional league.

"I would love to be able to come back to the United States after the Bundesliga season and participate in Major League Soccer. It has always been a dream of mine to play professional soccer in a first division league in the U.S."

The 21-club league (MLS) is set to begin next March.

Becker finding his way again

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Boris Becker wants to find his old game. The game that featured booming serves, acrobatic dives and driving volleys, the game he used to win Wimbledon as a 17-year-old. The game that made him the world's no. 1 player three years ago.

At 26, Becker finds himself making a comeback. He hasn't reached a Grand Slam final the last two years after being a fixture in the major finals since 1987. He even skipped the Australian and French Opens this year.

But slowly, he's finding his way again. He was a semifinalist at Wimbledon last month. And the surest sign that Becker's game is back on track came Sunday in the Los Angeles Open final.

He swept past Mark Woodforde of Australia 6-2, 6-2 in 55 minutes to win the 40th title of his 10-year pro career.

Becker won't have it so easy playing in this week's \$1.7 million ATP championship in Cincinnati, part of an intensive preparation

for the U.S. Open beginning Aug. 29.

"I have a strong desire again to compete with the likes of (Pete) Sampras," he said. "I almost can't wait until the U.S. Open begins because I'm in good form and I'm eager to play."

Becker likes to point out that he never really went away these last few years. He just wasn't winning as often because his heart and mind were on family matters. He got married to Barbara Felts and the couple has a young son, Noah.

"For some reason it didn't fit in the picture that a man took time out to clear his private life," the German ace said. "It just seemed like a surprise to everybody that I did all those things."

Becker went through other changes, too. Last year, he parted ways with coach Gunther Bresnik and ended a 10-year relationship with manager Ion Tiriac.

"All those things took so much away from tennis and I knew that, but in order to have a life after 25 in tennis, I needed to make those moves.

Otherwise, I probably wouldn't be playing anymore," he said.

"You have the likes of (Bjorn) Borg or others who just stopped, (who) couldn't cope with those problems and I did it while I was playing tennis."

But at a price. He finished 1993 ranked 11th, the first time in seven years that he dropped out of the world's top 10. Then in February, he fell to 14th, his lowest ranking since being 20th in June 1985.

Sunday's victory, his second title of the year, moved him from 11th to eighth.

Becker preferred juggling his new family and a full schedule of tournaments to taking time off the tour.

"I have examples of (John) McEnroe and other who took six months or a year off and who never came back," he said. "I knew that the risk of taking a long break and coming back was much greater than just playing tournament."

Becker credits new coach Nick Bollettieri with motivat-

ing him to spend extra hours in the weight room and on the practice court.

"He's just one of those few coaches who don't depend on me," he said. "Nick stands on his own. That was a very important foundation for our start. We're both very independent characters."

That's reflected in their differing opinions about Becker's weight. Bollettieri and Woodforde agreed that Becker had put on some extra pounds, slowing him around the court.

Becker disagreed, saying, "I was never a skinny little boy. I was quite well-built."

Mostly though, pupil and coach have been happy since striking up an unlikely alliance last January.

"He's getting his second wind," Bollettieri said. "He's a star. I love coaching him."

With his personal life settled, Becker is concentrating on his comeback and a single goal.

"Just to be able to compete with the best players again, just to be Boris Becker on the court," he said.



Boris Becker

Fatal falls highlight dangers of summer Alpine tourism

GENEVA (AP) — The sun-baked Alps, which lure tens of thousands of aspiring mountaineers, are turning into a death trap for the unsuspecting and the ill-prepared.

Within one week — the deadliest so far this summer — more than 20 people died in climbing accidents in Switzerland, France and Italy.

"It's not the mountains that are more dangerous at this time of year, it's people," commented Sepp Inderkum, rescue chief at the Swiss Alpine Club.

"People have much less respect for mountains in

beautiful weather," he added.

During cool days in spring and autumn, the peaks tend to attract dedicated climbers, who are well equipped and know to expect sudden changes in conditions.

But at the height of the vacation period, "day tourists" take over. Many are unfamiliar with the route, reluctant to rise at dawn to start long hikes, and poorly outfitted.

"In most cases, people who have to help either have very little experience or none at all," said Armando Poli, president of Italian first aid corps. "A lot of them get

injured and find themselves in trouble in easy situations like pathways through woods."

An exceptionally hot summer throughout Europe has melted the ice layer even on the highest peaks. This has increased the risk of avalanches of loose snow and rock slides.

An avalanche on the French side on the imposing Mont Blanc Mountain — the Alpinists' "European Mecca" — left nine people dead on July 29. Three people were killed in a fall Aug. 4 on the Italian part of the 4,807 metre-high (15,782 feet) mountain, the tallest of the

Alps.

Nine mountain visitors fell to their death during a national holiday weekend in Switzerland. A 74-year-old American woman, who stumbled over a rock precipice and smashed into a dry

stream bed 30 metres (100 feet) below, was among the victims, as was a 39-year-old man wearing only sandals.

Their names weren't released by authorities.

The worst incident occur-

red when a rope-party of four Germans, equipped with ski poles rather than proper ice axes, slipped on the Fründhorn Mountain in the central Swiss Alps after setting out when the sun had made the snow too soft.

FOR RENT

Semi-villa
furnished or unfurnished
L&M Tel.: 695875

GROUND FLOOR FOR RENT

Furnished or unfurnished, 220m², three bedrooms, living room, dining room, guest room, veranda, 2 bathrooms, car-park, garden. Above Safeway Stores in Shmelsani.
Tel. 661891, 605941

FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT

CAR FOR SALE
A fully-furnished apartment of an area of 250 square metres, in a modern building, consisting of three bedrooms, dining and sitting room, salon, two verandas, modern kitchen from oak-trees (fully-equipped) three bathrooms, maid room with a bath washing room, a special large suite, built-in cabinets in all bedrooms, annual rent, subject to renewal. Location; Al Rabia area.
A Mitsubishi Galant GLS model 1992, automatic full options, customs duty unpaid for sale.
Please call tel. 819662, 864176 Amman.

FOR SALE

Nissan Pathfinder 1993
Full options/standard transmission
Duty not paid.
Call: 864-952

I FOUND IT!!

Adham Real Estate is my aim to find the resident of which a time ago I was dreaming. Just phone or fax 640226 give budget and qualifications to find myself easy where I should be.
Luxurious villas, palaces JD 100,000 - up to 3,000,000 and in between. Thank you.

FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT

A newly built and furnished ground floor apartment comprising of 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, sitting area, dining room, and a spacious garden, located behind the Royal Automobile Club, between 7th and 8th circle is for rent on a yearly or monthly basis.
INTERESTED CALL 672441 - 818606

TO THE STUDENTS OF AMMAN BACCALAUREATE SCHOOL

JORDAN BOOK CENTRE WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR NEW ACADEMIC YEAR 1994/1995, AND ANNOUNCES THAT BOOKS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND ALL FIELDS ARE AVAILABLE AT OUR BUYING CENTRE.

*** JBC OFFERS YOU THE BEST PRICES

AVAILABLE IN THE MARKET !

COME AND VISIT US AND YOU WILL BE AMAZED WITH OUR PRICES AND WITH OUR UNIQUE SERVICE.

OUR GOAL IS TO SERVE YOU.

JBC, AMMAN - UNIVERSITY ROAD. TEL: 606882/676882

English Managers fear red card rush under new rules

LONDON (AP) — A flood of bookings and sendings-off were predicted Tuesday to dominate the start of the English soccer season this weekend after the confirmation of tough new rule changes.

Team managers were told that the crackdown in the rules applied by FIFA in the World Cup in the United States this summer will be carried over to the domestic game.

As in the World Cup, attackers are to be given the benefit of the doubt in offside decisions, with players running back from offside positions not penalised if the referee rules they are not interfering with play.

The violent tackle from behind becomes a red card offence, there are strict guidelines on time wasting and dissent, and players are no longer allowed to be treated for injury on the pitch.

But the changes did not meet with universal approval by the English game's top managers, several saying it was unnecessary tinkering with an English game which is in a healthy state.

"I hope things are not going to be as bad as one or two of us felt in that meeting," OPR chief Gerry Francis said after the managers were told of the rule changes.

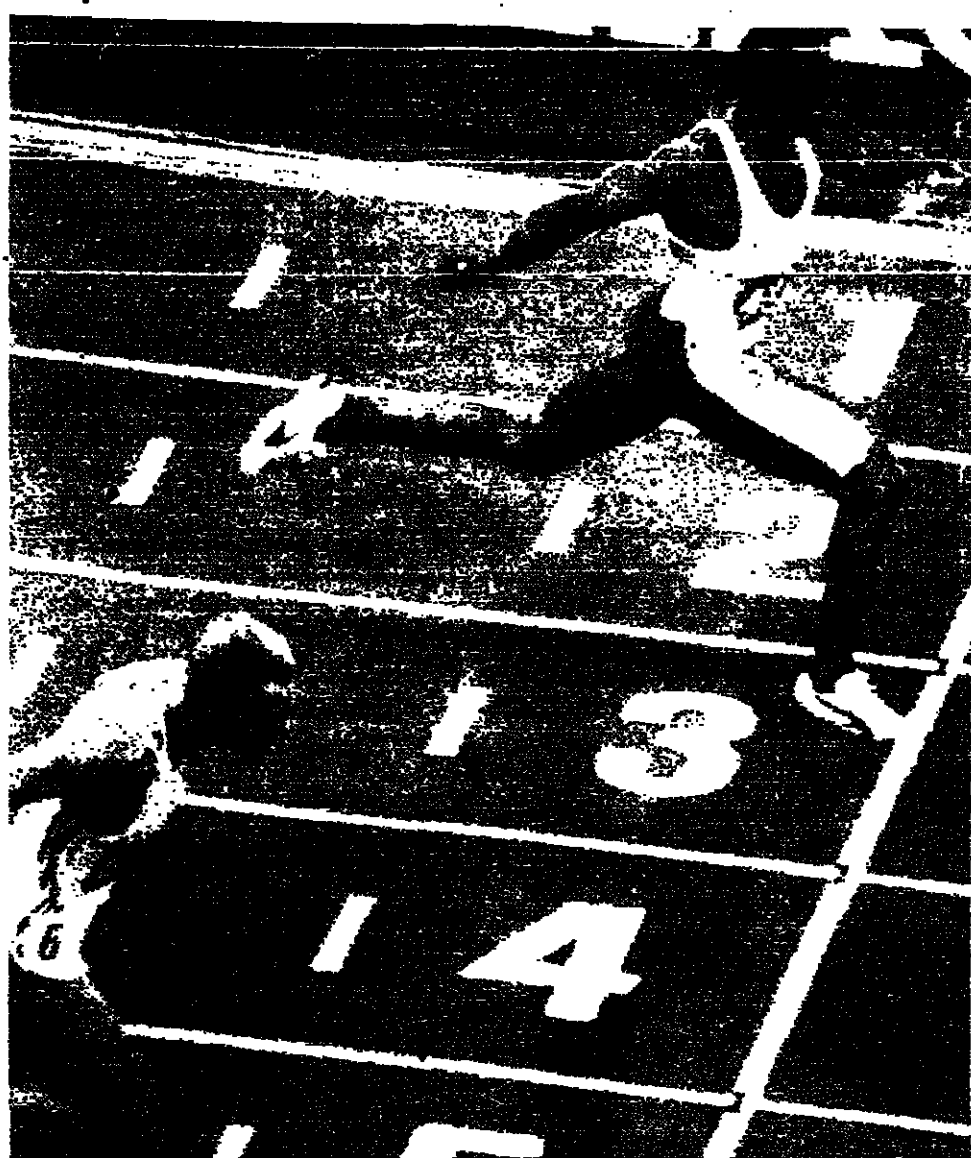
"The World Cup was a success, but there was a real increase in red and yellow cards. I hope that doesn't happen here."

"The rules on the tackle from behind have always been there. But we must not put the referees under too much pressure to book players just for tackling. I hope that common sense will prevail, because there is not much wrong with English football."

"These are not proposals. They are instructions coming down from FIFA — so it is not a debate. It is fact," he said.

The new rules and interpretations will come into effect for the first time Saturday, when England's lower divisions and the Scottish league season starts.

The English premier league kicks off the following week, with the Charity Shield between Manchester United and Blackburn Rovers at Wembley this Sunday.



Britain's Linford Christie (No. 3) crosses the finish line to take the gold medal followed by second placed Norwegian Geir Moen (No. 6) during the men's 100m event at the European Athletics Championships Monday (AFP photo)

Christie goes one-two-three

HELSINKI (AP) — It's as simple as 1-2-3 for Linford Christie.

Or rather 86-90-94. Those are the years the British runner has been king of European sprinters, winning three European championship titles in the 100 metres.

Christie's third win Monday tied the record set by Valery Burzov of the Soviet Union over a five-year span in 1969, 1971 and 1974.

His time wasn't fast, just 10.14 seconds. That's barely outside the 10.15 he ran when he won his first European title eight years ago in Stuttgart, Germany. In 1990 in Split, he won his second title in 10.00.

Christie was faster in Sunday's qualifying race than he was Monday, running as eased-up 10.08.

"I came here just to win the title. Now I have the championship, which is all that really matters," he said.

Christie had not raced in 23 days before Sunday. He was sidelined for three weeks with a left hamstring injury.

"I was very hungry. I wanted to race," Christie said. "Once I knew I was over my injury, no one was going to beat me."

Christie jumped into the lead by the 50-metre mark and started to pull away. But he lacked his customary strong finish and a fast-closing Geir Moen of Norway finished less than a metre behind in 10.20.

British teammate Steve Backley is one gold behind Christie. Backley won the javelin for the second straight

time, upsetting local favourite Seppo Raty of Finland and Olympic champion and world record-holder Jan Zeleny of the Czech Republic.

"Most of the reason for being so motivated was that a lot of the support was going the other way," Backley said after the crowd cheered Raty's efforts with stadium-shaking cheers. "I was keyed up probably more key up than I have ever been."

Backley threw 85.20 metres (279 feet, 6 inches), winning by more than two metres (6 feet) over Raty, second with 82.90 (272-0) and Zeleny, with 82.58 (270-11). Russians won three other

finals. Irina Privalova took the women's 100 easily in 11.02, well off the European record of 10.77 she set earlier this year.

"The time does not bother me," Privalova said. "I am just so glad for the victory." Mikhail Shchennikov took the men's 20-kilometre walk in 1 hour, 18 minutes, 45 seconds. It was his first major outdoor title although he has won four consecutive European indoor walk victories.

World champion Anna Biryukova of Russia won the first triple jump for women at the European meet with a leap of 14.89 metre (48 feet, 10 1/4 inches).

ADVERTISEMENT REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS

An American firm announces the requirement for U.S. manufactured computers, office equipment, office furniture (metal), and water colour/fountain. Tenderers are requested to pick up RFQ document, technical specifications at room 211, Ministry of Water/Irrigation building, on or before 12 noon August 16, 1994.

Closing date for offers is 12:00 O'clock Noon August 27, 1994

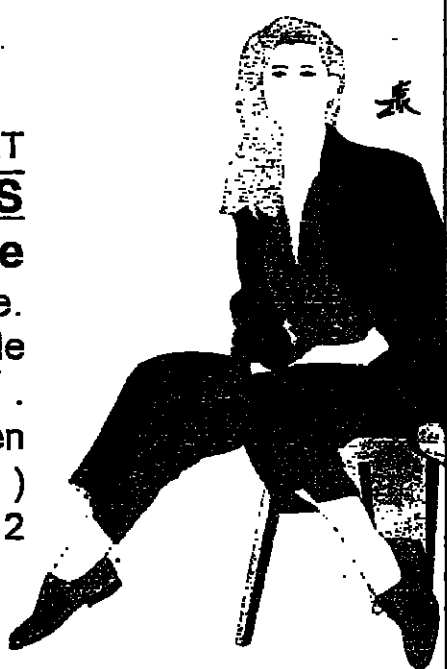
CAR FOR SALE DUTY FREE

Peugeot 505 model 1981. In good condition. Air-conditioned. Price: \$U.S. 1,900.

Tel. 674307/8

WHOLESALE PRICES AT GREENSLEEVES Boutique

Best ever summer sale. Don't miss these incredible Bargains. Sheila will be there between (11:00 - 1:00) (4 - 6 pm) Tel: 664872



EUROPEAN ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS Braun in trouble; Gunnell cruises through

HELSINKI (R) — German Sabine Braun and Briton Sally Gunnell, major performers at last year's world championships, enjoyed contrasting fortunes on the third day of the European Athletics Championships Tuesday.

While 400 metres hurdles world champion Gunnell cruised through her heat to win in 55.17 seconds, defending European heptathlon champion Braun was left worrying what was wrong with her form after slipping

further behind in her event. Braun, who won the silver medal at last year's world championships after an intense battle with American Jackie Joyner-Kersey, could manage only 6.32 metres in the long jump, usually one of her favourite events where she has a personal best of 6.70 metres.

After a disappointing first day, the 29-year-old German, a former national long jump champion, slipped further behind Russian overnight lead-

er Svetlana Moskalets who managed 6.44 metres, the second longest jump behind Hungarian Rita Inancsi's 6.48.

Moskalets led the competition with 4,814 points 42 points ahead of Braun who was second on 4,772 before the javelin and 800 metres in the evening session.

"We talked about it all last night and could not work out what was wrong," said Braun who put her hands to her head in frustration after not jumping her third and last attempt.

Maybe there is something wrong with my body after my tonsil problem (in July). I am not recovering well or something. This is not my competition. It is not that I am not enjoying it — it's the European championships way but it just does not seem to be working right at the moment."

Gunnell, who smashed the world record in winning her world gold in Stuttgart, could afford to slow up in the last 100 metres and reached the semifinals with ease. Her

only complaint was that she had to get up early for the 10 a.m. start to the races.

"I'm fine, I'm happy but it is a bit early in the morning for me," Gunnell said. "I was awake at 5.30 and didn't sleep much. Then I was up at 10 past six. But I hate waiting in the heat (for the event to start). Now I'm in business, it's good."

Gunnell sat patiently on the lane box marker with her eyes closed before the race. But she looked wide awake after the gun and was reeling first to the hurdles after 100 metres.

Her time was the fastest of the three heats, ahead of Tatjana Kurochikina of Belarus who won the third heat in 55.53.

Russian Olga Nazarova took the first heat in 55.71 for the third best time.

The only minor surprise of the morning came in the pole vault where Spain's Olympic bronze medalist Javier Garcia failed to qualify for the final after clearing only 5.40 metres.

JORDAN REAL ESTATE JD

FURNISHED SUPER DELUXE APARTMENT FOR RENT IN SWEIFIEH Near the American Embassy

INVITATION TO DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS

235m². Newly furnished... elevator... 3 bedrooms... 2 big salons... veranda... interior decoration... nice view on garden... garage... second floor.

Please call 865655 9 am - 9 pm

Alahia ~ Abela Superstore

SUMMER Festival

UP TO 50% DISCOUNT

For Her

For Him

For Them

For The Family

MAKE OUR SECOND FLOOR YOUR NUMBER ONE CHOICE

ALL you look for and a little bit more

A PROJECT OF ALAHIA COMMERCIAL CENTERS P.S.C.

TODAY	Cinema	Tel.: 634144	Cinema	Tel.: 699238	Cinema	Tel.: 677420	Cinema	Tel.: 618274 - 618275	Cinema	Tel.: 675571	Cinema	Tel.: 620155
	PHILADELPHIA		PLAZA		CONCORD		AMMOUN		Nabil Al Mashini Theatre		AHLAN THEATRE	
	Richard Gere/Sharon Stone in INTERSECTION		Sharihan-Mahmoud Hamideh — Hussein Fahmi in Women's market Arabic		CONCORD '1' PHILADELPHIA Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD '2' ROBINHOOD Shows: 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		John Saxon/Sherrie Rose — in MAXIMUM FORCE Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00 Starting Aug. 15 the political play "SAHRA KANAUNIEH"		Today & Everyday Abu Amwad in social comedy "FUNCTURED BAG"		Present their play WHAT A PLACE! (Salar Ya Salar) Daily at 8:30 p.m. The theatre is closed on Tue days	

NEWS IN BRIEF

Syrian TV carries pictures of Aqaba summit

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Official Syrian television on Monday carried pictures of the first public visit to Jordan of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. A Syrian commentator said Mr. Rabin and King Hussein had in fact known each other for 20 years. The footage showed Mr. Rabin, King Hussein and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on a cruise on the Red Sea aboard the royal Jordanian yacht. Mr. Rabin had earlier attended the inauguration of the first border crossing between Jordan and Israel.

Turkish private TV appeals against MTV ban

ANKARA (AP) — A private television network has appealed against a ban on broadcasting the popular international music television MTV in Turkey, news reports said. Interstar TV had allocated a channel for MTV broadcast. But government board last week banned the broadcasts of MTV, as well as the international sports network Eurosports, which used another channel. After the state monopoly on broadcasting was lifted, the government set up tight restrictions, which included a ban on the transmission of satellite broadcasts. The Istanbul newspaper Cumhuriyet said Interstar officials appealed to the board to lift the ban, saying it was anti-democratic and "could hurt Turkey's image abroad." MTV had become very popular in Turkey since its broadcasts began early this year.

Velayati begins tour of Central Asia

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati on Tuesday began a tour of several countries in Central Asia and the Caucasus to discuss bilateral and regional issues, the official Iranian news agency IRNA said. Mr. Velayati will visit Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kirghizistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan and Nakhichevan, an autonomous enclave in Azerbaijan. The Tehran Times welcomed the tour, but urged Mr. Velayati not to visit Uzbekistan whose "leader Islam Karimov takes an anti-iranian stance." It accused Uzbekistan of cooperation with Israel to suppress militant Islamic movements in the region. "Karimov's policies and actions together with his recent anti-iranian stance should be enough for Velayati not to go to Tashkent," it said. Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres visited Uzbekistan last month. He held talks with Uzbek leaders mainly on the rise of Islamic fundamentalism in Central Asia.

'Kidnapped Finnish tourists safe'

HELSINKI (AFP) — The two Finnish tourists kidnapped by Kurdish rebels in eastern Turkey are well and will be released as soon as the situation is safe and possible, according to the Kurdistan information centre in Finland. The centre told Finnish authorities late Monday that Marko Hotakainen, 27, and Tuomo Pollari, 20, were in good health and were being cared for. According to Risto Kauppi, the Finnish ambassador to Ankara, the kidnappers have not yet made contact with Finnish embassy. Hotakainen and Mr. Pollari were seized Saturday after a group from the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) stopped their hired car travelling between Tunceli and Pulurur and told them they could not go any further as they did not have "entry visas for Kurdistan." The separatist Kurds of the PKK are demanding that tourists produce "entry visas" to visit Kurdish-dominated southeastern Turkey where the Marxist-Leninist group wants to found a separate state. More than 20 tourists have been kidnapped since the beginning of last year in eastern and southeastern Turkey after the Kurds began attacks aimed at undermining the tourist industry. All were set free and were not harmed during their captivity.

One dead in Cuban boat hijacking

MIAMI (AFP) — Cuba informed the U.S. government Tuesday that one of its boats had been hijacked by a group of unknown assailants who killed a navy officer in the attack, a Cuban diplomat said. After the incident was reported to U.S. officials early Tuesday, the U.S. Coast Guard advised immigration officials to be prepared to process a group of Cubans in Florida, a government source said. Cuba demanded that the United States return the hijackers who allegedly killed a Cuban navy lieutenant and forced four sailors off the ship when they commandeered the vessel docked in the port of Mariel.

Death penalty sought over Rushdie riot

ANKARA (R) — Turkish prosecutors have demanded the death penalty for 29 people in connection with riots over Salman Rushdie's novel "The Satanic Verses." court officials said on Tuesday. Thirty seven people died in the riots. The hearing, amid tight security, was closed to the press and public but a court official quoted chief prosecutor Nusret Demiral as saying 29 defendants faced capital charges. Mr. Demiral said there were moves to include prominent writer Aziz Nesin among the defendants, but not on capital charges.

Pakistan hands over 3 suspects to Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — Three Egyptian Islamic fundamentalists living in Pakistan arrived at Cairo airport on Tuesday after their arrest and extradition by Pakistani authorities, security officials said here. The three suspected militants, who were not named, were said to be members of a group of 13 Arabs who fought against the Soviet invasion in Afghanistan. They were arrested last week and returned to Egypt in line with an extradition accord signed between the two countries in July.

Clinton's popularity sags, poll shows

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Americans are increasingly dissatisfied with President Bill Clinton's performance despite the strength of the U.S. economy, according to a newly published Washington Post-ABC News poll. The poll, conducted last week by telephone among 1,015 adults, found that 47 per cent approved of his performance — a 10 point drop from four months ago — and an equal percentage disapproved.

Swedish agency gets ransom demand

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — Kidnappers holding Swedish aid worker Lena Thelander hostage in Mogadishu have made a ransom demand for her release, International Aid Sweden (IAS) spokesman Per Lindahl said Tuesday. "We have received a demand from the kidnappers, they want money from us," he said, but did not disclose how much was being demanded.

U.S.: No evidence Saudis sought reactor

WASHINGTON (R) — The State Department has no evidence to support allegations by a former Saudi diplomat that Saudi Arabia sought to purchase a nuclear reactor from China, a spokesman said. The New York Times in its Sunday editions reported that the former diplomat, Mohammad Al Khilawi, said Saudi Arabia tried in 1989 to buy research reactors from Chinese and U.S. sources as part of a secret effort to acquire nuclear arms. "We don't have any indication to support the allegation, have no indication that the Saudis sought to purchase a nuclear reactor from China," spokesman Mike McCurry said during a news briefing. "The type of reactor mentioned in the report, a miniature neutron-source reactor, we believe poses no proliferation concerns. It's used for basic research and for radio isotope production."

France tightens security sweep

PARIS (Agencies) — France banned five Islamist publications on Tuesday and detained 36 more people after a third night of police roadblocks in Paris in a widening clampdown on suspected Algerian Muslim fundamentalists.

An interior ministry order published in the official journal on Tuesday outlawed five foreign periodicals accused of containing incitement to terrorism against France.

The stepped up security campaign follows the killings last week of five French in Algeria and threatened reprisals if comrades in detention here are not released.

According to police sources quoted by French newspapers, radicals from Algeria have formed the makings of a network that could be used as a support base by extremists.

The text of the ban, issued Saturday but made public Tuesday, said the publications could not be sold or distributed in France because of "their violently anti-Western and anti-French tone and the call to terrorism they contain."

The publications — three of them Arab-language — "are of a nature to endanger public order," according to the interior ministry. "It is urgent in the current context to forbid these publications throughout (French) territory."

The ban was issued on the day the Islamic Salvation Army (AIS) threatened unspecified reprisals against France if 17 Muslim fundamentalists detained in an unused army barracks in northeast France are not freed.

Paris police headquarters said 36 people were detained during a third successive night of spot checks on vehicles and pedestrians in railway stations, airports and key intersections in the capital.

The latest haul took to 109 the number of people handed over to the justice authorities for possible prosecution after being picked up on the streets since Saturday night.

Altogether, 2,777 people and 1,434 vehicles were checked on Monday night. Several of those detained were foreigners held because of irregularities in their residence papers.

On Monday, an Algerian-born science student was placed under investigation and remanded in custody after being arrested collecting an arms cache from a locker at a suburban Paris supermarket.

Police said he was wanted in connection with a post office hold-up in the Rouen area last month. There was no suggestion that the incident was politically motivated.

Algeria's Islamic insurgency has killed 56 foreigners — 15 of them French — and more than 4,000 Algerians in 30 months. But the threats of reprisals triggered officials' fears the crisis could spread across the Mediterranean to French soil.

France supports Algeria's military-backed government fighting the Islamic insurgency.



WADI ARABA TALKS: Jordanian and Israeli negotiators in a sub-commission on borders meet in a tent camp in Wadi Araba on Tuesday (see page one) (Petra photo)

Arafat wins pledge of speeded up aid

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat won a promise of speeded up World Bank help for Palestinian autonomy on Tuesday ahead of a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Mr. Arafat met senior World Bank official Prem Garg who said afterwards: "An issue of great concern to the chairman was financing the budget deficit, and in this respect I am pleased to say that this will be taken care of."

The pledge represented a breakthrough for the cash-strapped Palestinian authority, which has an estimated budget deficit of \$150 million for this year.

Mr. Rabin is due to discuss the financial crisis and other problems facing the Palestinians when he meets Mr. Arafat at the Erez crossing point between Israel and the Gaza Strip on Wednesday.

"We will discuss important issues," Mr. Arafat said

ahead of the talks.

Since arriving in Gaza in early July to head the new authority, Mr. Arafat has accused international donors of abandoning their aid pledges.

Donor states have complained of a lack of proper Palestinian accounting procedures, and have channelled through the World Bank only \$47.5 million of the \$720 million pledged for the first year of self-rule.

"We all recognise the donors' assistance has not moved at the pace it should," Mr. Garg said. "But now we can say the assistance will pick up. Let's not forget that it's a new experiment which requires a system to be established, and it's a hard procedure to start."

He also promised to tackle the financing of the Palestinian police force soon.

Last month the Palestinian authority halved policemen's salaries, claiming they included May bonuses which were to be removed.

Amin Haddad, the authority's representative to the World Bank, also said negotiations were underway to speed implementation of certain projects.

He said \$128 million were needed for urgent projects, and another \$268 million for investment programmes.

Mr. Arafat has spoken of his "despair" over his treatment by the Israelis since he arrived in the Gaza Strip.

Israeli officials said Mr. Rabin wanted to reassure Mr. Arafat in Wednesday's talks that the Palestinians will not suffer because of the accelerated peace moves with Jordan and would brief him on his talks in Aqaba on Monday.

It will be their first encounter since Mr. Arafat settled in the autonomous strip on July 12.

Palestinians have accused the Israelis of slowing the application of the autonomy agreement because of their reconciliation with Jordan.

"The Erez meeting shows that the rapprochement with Jordan will not be at the expense of the Palestinians," Environment Minister Yossi Sarid told AFP.

Palestinians also say Israel has reneged on its promise to release more than 6,000 prisoners, allow free passage between Gaza and Jericho, and to begin redeploying the army outside population centres.

At talks in Cairo on extending Palestinian powers, negotiators agreed that Israel would keep control over archaeological sites, while the new Palestinian authority in the territories will take charge of tourism services.

Negotiators have now hammered out the transfer of powers in four of five designated sectors — education, health and social affairs as well as tourism.

But the fifth sector, income tax, is proving a stumbling block.

Argentina is prepared to expel Iranian diplomats

BUENOS AIRES (Agencies) — Argentine Foreign Minister Guido di Tella said Tuesday that his government would expel Iranian diplomats from the country if they were found responsible for the July 18 bomb attack on a Jewish centre.

But Mr. Di Tella, speaking on state radio, said that the government was not completely sure that the Iranian embassy officials were linked to the bombing of the Jewish Argentine Mutual Association that claimed 100 lives and wounded 250 people.

"We are not fully convinced" that Iranian diplomats were involved in the attack, said Mr. Di Tella. He added that if the evidence pointed clearly to the involvement of the Iranian diplomats, Argentina would request that they leave but would not break off diplomatic relations with Tehran.

"All that we are going to do is ask that they leave," he said. "This would not mean that we are breaking off diplomatic relations but rather than there is a problem in relations," he added.

Justice officials said Monday they had gathered sufficient evidence to link the Iranian diplomats and alleged members of the Hizbollah group to the attack, a claim repeatedly made by Israel.

A Buenos Aires newspaper, "Pagina 12," identified six Iranian diplomats as having links to the deadly blast including First Secretary Abbas Zarabi Khorasani and Commercial Secretary Golam Reza Zangeneh, an alleged Hizbollah commander.

The Argentine Foreign Ministry reported to justice authorities that Mr. Zangeneh and another official were currently working in the embassy while the other four ended their assignments between six months and a year ago.

Defence Minister Oscar Camilion told ATC television that the Iranian diplomats would be declared persona non grata in the event that their involvement in the bombing was confirmed.

Officials said that it was not necessary for the government to have a court verdict on the alleged involvement of the diplomats to take action but rather "a sound conviction and clear indications" that such is the case.

An official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Reuters that Buenos Aires feared another attack if it cut ties with Tehran as threatened by President Carlos Menem if Iranian diplomats were linked to the blast.

"When one goes into this kind of stuff, one has to ponder carefully what might happen next," the official said. "The possibility of a repeat attack is there. It's a problem that needs studying."

Argentine news agencies reported Monday a judge investigating the bombing has proof that Iranian embassy employees are linked to the attack.

Diarios Y Noticias news service, citing an anonymous source close to the investigation, said Federal Judge Juan Jose Galeano has evidence that current and former Iranian diplomats were involved.

Two of the diplomats left Argentina shortly before the attack, Noticias Argentinas reported. None of the suspects was named in the reports.

Argentine Carlos Telleria, the buyer of the Renault minivan believed to have been used in the car-

bombing, is the only person still detained by police.

Ariel Nitzcaner, the owner of the auto repair shop where police believe the minivan was rigged, said he was beaten during his weeklong detention by police trying to force him into a confession. He was freed Friday.

"They put a black bag over my head, tied it around my neck, and I felt like I was choking," Mr. Nitzcaner told the newspaper Pagina 12. He said he was later beaten by one of his interrogators.

Mr. Nitzcaner, who said he is Jewish, said police put both him and his business partner, Marcelo Jouce, under intense psychological pressure.

About 200 people led by Ruben Beraja, president of the Delegation of Argentine Jewish Associations, marched to the central court building in Buenos Aires on Monday to demand that the bombing case be solved quickly.

"The judge has worked intensely and effectively, with a lot of seriousness, and we hope that effort results in success," Mr. Beraja said of Judge Galeano's investigation.

Not being softened may be due to "strategic" rather than security reasons.

"We suspect that the U.S. will put a heavy price on its 'yeh' vote to lift sanctions," said the official. That price, many European officials suspect, may be "exclusive trade terms," said the EC official.

The Europeans say that much like what happened in post-war Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, the "big deals" will all go to the Americans — that's one price for lifting sanctions.

But Iraqi officials say that trade conditions are only one item on a long list of terms that are being talked about. "Since the beginning of the peace talks it has been clear that eventually we will be pressured to join the negotiations," said an Iraqi official in Baghdad recently.

"When the multilateral talks began two countries

not being softened may be due to "strategic" rather than security reasons.

"We suspect that the U.S. will put a heavy price on its 'yeh' vote to lift sanctions," said the official. That price, many European officials suspect, may be "exclusive trade terms," said the EC official.

The Europeans say that much like what happened in post-war Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, the "big deals" will all go to the Americans — that's one price for lifting sanctions.

But Iraqi officials say that trade conditions are only one item on a long list of terms that are being talked about. "Since the beginning of the peace talks it has been clear that eventually we will be pressured to join the negotiations," said an Iraqi official in Baghdad recently.

"When the multilateral talks began two countries

not being softened may be due to "strategic" rather than security reasons.

"We suspect that the U.S. will put a heavy price on its 'yeh' vote to lift sanctions," said the official. That price, many European officials suspect, may be "exclusive trade terms," said the EC official.

The Europeans say that much like what happened in post-war Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, the "big deals" will all go to the Americans — that's one price for lifting sanctions.

But Iraqi officials say that trade conditions are only one item on a long list of terms that are being talked about. "Since the beginning of the peace talks it has been clear that eventually we will be pressured to join the negotiations," said an Iraqi official in Baghdad recently.

"When the multilateral talks began two countries

COLUMN

London probes holiday burglary spree

LONDON (R) — A British government minister demanded to know why a teenager convicted of burglary by social workers posing as his parents to a leisure complex, where he immediately went on a burglary spree. Social Services Minister John Bowis asked local authorities in Essex, just outside London, for a report on the case of the 14-year-old boy. Newspaper reports said the teenager, who had a previous conviction for burglary, was taken by the social workers to a luxury Centre Parts Complex as part of a therapeutic programme. The youth, who was not named, broke into nine holiday chalets within two days of checking in, the reports said. Mr. Bowis said he was anxious to prevent the treatment of young offenders from being seen as a reward for their misbehaviour. He said in a statement that, if the reports of the case were correct, "then clearly there is a need for an investigation into how this situation occurred."

Lazy dragons go on crash diet and, hopefully, breed

SINGAPORE (AP) — Officials at the Singapore Zoo say their three overfed Komodo dragons have become fat and lazy. So much that they are refusing to breed. That's why the zoo has put the man-eating dragons on a crash diet course. The 65-kilogramme (145-pound) dragons will be fed on alternate Sundays and expected to slim down to 55 kilogrammes (120 pounds), the Straits Times reported. "Hopefully after shedding some weight the reptiles will breed," zoo supervisor Francis Lim was quoted as saying by the newspaper. Komodo dragons are the largest lizard species in existence and are found only on the 18-mile-long (28-kilometre-long) Komodo Island in Indonesia. They can run as fast as a dog but have a terrible temper. They prey on goats, deer and pigs, although they are known to have attacked humans. In 1974, a Swiss tourist was reported to have been devoured by a dragon on the Komodo Island. But in the confines of the zoo, crowd-pullers Rinca, Joko and Rinja have nothing much to do. Neither do they have to hunt for food. "We also pamper them," said Mr. Lim about the eight-year-old reptiles, who are now the right age for breeding. The lizards, packing a poisonous bite, grow up to 3 metres (9.8 feet) long and weigh as much as 150 kilogrammes (330 pounds). Komo, another Komodo dragon from the zoo, is currently on loan to the Rotterdam Zoo in the Netherlands. The female Komodo lays about 25 eggs, but the parents have been known to eat their offspring.

Beijing to change the image of its public toilets

BEIJING (AFP) — A competition opened in Beijing to find the best blueprint for a public toilet. The contest, which will run for two months, organised by the city government and open to professionals and amateurs alike, is aimed at gathering new, user-friendly concepts in toilet design, said the official Beijing Daily. Beijing's public conveniences, four walls and three holes, are generally in an advanced state of filth and disrepair. Most emit an odor so strong that it seems unlikely they have been cleaned since the Cultural Revolution of 1966-76, when Mao Tse-tong ordered intellectuals to empty public bathrooms each day of "human fertilizer," in order to get in touch with the masses. Workers and students in the capital regularly complain that the leadership invests huge amounts of public funds in five-star hotels that will bring in hard currency from foreign tourists, but next to nothing on toilets for the Chinese people. "The bad condition of public toilets in the capital is affecting the image of Chinese civilisation," said the newspaper. The daily added that the problem of public toilets is now ranked the fifth-most important concern of Beijing residents, following clothing, food, housing and transport.

(Continued on page 7)